CCT

Columbia
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Today

Fall 2023

EMILY DRABINSKI '97 BATTLES BOOK BANS

"LIBRARIES ARE IN THE CROSSHAIRS RIGHT NOW"

SCHIST HAPPENS

GEOLOGIST STEVEN L. GOLDSTEIN '76 TAKES US ON A FIELD TRIP

COLUMBIA VS. ARMY, 1947

A 100-YEAR-OLD PLAYER RECALLS AN AGELESS LIONS TRIUMPH

Building Blocks

Blondel Pinnock '90 is leading a new era of community development in Central Brooklyn

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THE ILIAD OF HOMER

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Contents

features

18

Building Blocks

Blondel Pinnock '90 is leading a new era of community development in Central Brooklyn.

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

24

The Battle Over Books

American Library Association president Emily Drabinski '97 is fighting for the right to read.

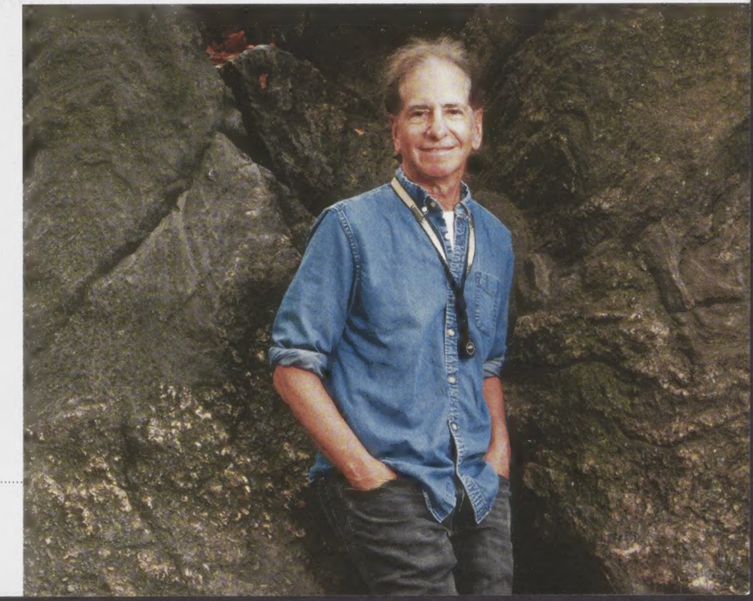
By Jill C. Shomer

28

Geology Rocks!

A Central Park field trip with Professor Steven L. Goldstein '76, GSAS'86.

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09



Cover: Photograph by Jörg Meyer

Contents

departments

3 Within the Family

4 Letters to the Editor

6 The Big Picture: Let's Cross That Bridge

9 Message from the Dean

10 Around the Quads

14 Roar, Lion, Roar

*alumni*news

34 The Mane Attraction

36 Message from CCAA President Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

37 Bookshelf

38 Lions
Jessica Chi '15, BUS'21; Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn '58, VPS'62; Linda Appel Lipsius '93; Ravi Iyer '96

40 Class Notes
Just Married!

79 Obituaries

80 Read It Online
Nusrat Choudhury '98 is the first Muslim woman to be appointed to a federal judgeship.

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JORG MEYER

Within the Family

Those Special Campus Spaces

As a graduate student in the School of the Arts, my life revolved around Dodge Hall — through the Broadway Gates, I would go just a short distance on College Walk before hooking left and left again, up two flights to reach Dodge's tree-shaded corner. Nearly all of my classes were there, but I lived and did my writing in Brooklyn, so my routines gave me little reason to venture out and explore campus. It was only when I began working for this magazine, going on photo shoots and hearing others' affinity for certain spaces, that I began to discover them for myself. My introduction was further helped along by the exigencies of reunion, which calls for staff to lead activities in just about every campus nook and cranny. I remember being impressed by the stained-glass majesty of the windows in the C.V. Starr East Asian Library the first time I welcomed attendees at a dinner there.

SCOTT RUDD

Stunning stained glass windows make C.V. Starr East Asian Library a campus favorite.

Starr Library appeared on *CCT*'s 2021 list of favorite campus places, culled from alumni recollections and social media polls. This fall we've done another roundup, with a focus on less-traveled locales. But what makes something a favorite space? Often it's tied to community, the places we gather to spend time together both purposefully and serendipitously. The Steps of course are an ideal instance of that, as is Butler despite its more hushed character (and no surprise, they earned the top two spots the last time around).

This newer list, though, feels defined by a different quality. It's a bit like being let in on delicious inside intel, the way you send a friend to a favorite city with the advice, "*Here's* where you really need to go." Yes, some are places to find community, but they also offer opportunities for creativity and beauty and contemplation, if only you know where to look. We suggest starting with the Amsterdam Avenue bridge, shown in our Big Picture, on page 6. (The complete list can be found at college.columbia.edu/cct.)

Our cover story focuses on the formidable Blondel Pinnock '90, CEO of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp. Restoration, for those who might not be familiar, was the first community development organization in the United States and is widely recognized as a national model. Pinnock, who is charged with leading Restoration at a critical moment in its evolution, was thoughtful about how the College inspires students to do "the good work." We're proud to introduce her to readers.

Elsewhere in the issue, we see more of the good work Columbians are involved in, including that of Emily Drabinski '97, current president of the American Library Association. Drabinski is an important and ardent voice for library workers on the front lines in the increasingly urgent battle for the right to read, and we welcome her leadership. Then we take a field trip to Central Park with Professor Steven L. Goldstein '76, GSAS'86, who showcases the geological history that can be found right in New Yorkers' backyard.

I'd also encourage you not to miss our "Roar, Lion, Roar" feature about Al Kachadurian BUS'48, likely the last surviving member of the celebrated Lions football team that beat Army in 1947. Kachadurian, who caught an interception in that game, recalls what it was like being part of one of the great upsets in College football history. It's a fun account, and we thank the excellent Charles Butler '85, JRN'99 for bringing it to our pages.

And speaking of campus and community, we welcome our newest Lions, the Class of 2027, to Morningside. We know this fantastic group of first-years will be finding their own favorite places soon.

Enjoy the issue!

Alexis Boncy

Alexis Boncy SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

Letters to the Editor

A Piece of Iconic History

CCT
Columbia College Today
Summer 2023
STUDENT FICTION CONTEST WINNER
ABBY SIM '24 HAS THE WRITE STUFF
DRIVEN BY DATA
HOW HAVE OUR LIVES BEEN SHAPED BY ALGORITHMS?
Blast From the Past
An iconic moment on campus, relived by the alums who were there
The New York Times Magazine
ALMA MATER
COLUMBIA RECOVE

I was not in the photo on the cover [of the Summer 2023 *CCT*], but this was the most interesting issue you have produced in a while. I was friends with two of those pictured, and I spent much time on the Steps and on the lion perches on either side. In a way, nights there were more interesting. There was a fraternity whose members used to practice their dance moves in front of the Steps, giving all an impromptu free show. And I had many conversations there with people I am still friends with to this day.

I became a political science professor with a specialization in political theory because of the Core Curriculum. Contemporary Civilization in particular influenced my entire life.

It was wonderful to receive such a piece of human interest, nostalgia and iconic history. This was an excellent call, and I thank you for it.

Diana M. Judd '91
Bayonne, N.J.

A Path to Social Justice

I must admit I am not a consistent reader of *CCT,* but the cover of the Summer 2023 issue caught my eye. I realize, after reading some back issues, this letter probably would have been a better fit after the May/June 2008 issue. I am just a bit late in my response!

The cover was connected to a *New York Times Magazine* article, "Columbia Recovered," which I located in the *Times* archives. It referenced the reunion of alumni who had been present for the events of April 1968. The author, Morris Dickstein '61, described how "one of the largest student uprisings in the history of American universities" not only led to protests at other universities but also to the creation of African-American studies, women's studies and radical history curricula at Columbia College and many of those other universities.

Dickstein interviewed Tom Hurwitz, who commented on how many of those present at the reunion had not been depoliticized and were still involved in socially committed work. He also interviewed alumni and faculty who noted how the occupation of buildings and the police riot (my description, not his) changed the trajectory of their lives. That was true for me. Watching how much the Tactical Patrol Force relished beating students on the South Lawn, many of whom were not part of any protest, shook my view of the world to its core.

I came to Columbia from a conservative family in Denver intending to major in chemical engineering. At the time, I could not understand how occupying buildings, essentially breaking the law, could lead to positive change. I was not a participant in the protests. Fortunately, the intense campus discussions that were stimulated by the protests helped me to understand that laws and institutions can only be changed if they are challenged and called into question, and that there are many ways to do that.

After the events of April 1968, I changed my major to economics, which seemed more socially relevant. Like many of the alumni at the 1988 reunion (which I did not attend), I have dedicated my life to social justice work. I taught university-level economics from a left perspective for 36 years. In retirement, I continue my work with the faculty union.

Like many of the writers in the 2008 issue, I have mixed feelings about my time at Columbia, so I find it a bit difficult to relate to the idyllic cover photo in *CCT.* But it is true I have my Columbia experience, including that of April 1968, to thank for putting me on the path to a fulfilling and rewarding life working for social justice.

Doug Orr '71
Berkeley, Calif.

Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not *CCT*, the College or the University. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and *CCT* style. Please submit Letters to the Editor online: **college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.**

The Lessons of '68

The *New York Times Magazine* article "Columbia Recovered," shown on the Summer 2023 cover of *CCT,* implied that the "shattering event" of 1968 was not what students needed; Columbia needed a "recovery." Our actions in April 1968 stopped what many now see as mistakes, or worse: building a "gym crow" gym in Morningside Park with a separate entrance for Harlem residents, and the war in Vietnam and the University's involvement in it.

On a personal level, being beaten, arrested and jailed by the NYPD at the behest of the University taught me more about "legitimate authority" than all my readings of political theory. Seeing the NYPD walk past me and other white students to beat bloody the few Black kids from Harlem sitting in with us was racism in action. Being in jail for a week, about the only white kid among hundreds of

Black and Brown inmates, many of whom were in for "walking while Black," was a lesson in racism I would not have had without the "shattering event" of 1968.

I and my fellow students liked to hang out in the sun, too. We did plenty of that. We also believed we had an obligation to right some wrongs. So rather than a "recovery," let us take a deeper look at the lessons of 1968.

Michael Jacoby Brown '69
Arlington, Mass.

I'm There, Too!

You guys missed me on the cover of *The New York Times Magazine* [Summer 2023]. I am in a white T-shirt, under the "N" in "New," sipping a Bartles & Jaymes wine cooler from a paper bag.

My coed fraternity siblings, Martin Prince '87 and Cheryl Hone '89, are flanking me, sitting on the steps. Marty is in a white T-shirt and his face is blocked by another person wearing sunglasses and a light blue T-shirt.

Weeks later, we were out downtown late in the evening of May 14 and somebody bought a *Times* as we boarded the subway at 42nd Street. "Hey, Van! Hey, Cheryl! You guys are on the cover!" our Iota Epsilon Pi brother shouted out.

Oh yes, there I was, caught skipping music class on the first nice day of spring 1988 ....

EveAnna "Van" Manley '90
Altadena, Calif.

An Inspiring Intellectual

I was impressed by your ability to track down some of the students in *The New York Times Magazine* cover photo, featured in the Summer 2023 issue.

You noted but said nothing else about the author of the *Times* article that accompanied that photo. Morris Dickstein '61, a literary critic and cultural historian, was, according to a *Times* obituary, "among the last of the first generation of Jewish public intellectuals reared on the Lower East Side." He passed away two and a half years ago at 81.

On a personal note, he taught my section of Literature Humanities in spring 1967, just months before the 1968 upheaval that led to his *Times* article 20 years later. His teaching inspired a classroom brimmed with insight and wit.

Ralph Bien '69
Greenbrae, Calif.

The Attraction of Activism

I enjoyed the article "Blast From the Past" [Summer 2023], featuring *The New York Times Magazine*'s spring 1988 photo of Columbia students on the Low Steps around *Alma Mater*. The photo reminded me of the day I visited Columbia in May 1969 to decide whether to accept the College's offer to attend.

Having grown up in the suburbs, the same vision of students enjoying the city sun told me this was where I had to be. But like Sandy Steinberg Harris BC'90, I was attracted to Columbia because of the activism shown by students the prior year, recounted so well in James Kunin's *The Strawberry Statement*. Like Sandy, many of us felt we could challenge those whom we felt were leading our country down the wrong road.

Yes, it is daunting that we are still facing many of those same issues (now compounded by sexual identity politics). Having just celebrated a sobering 50th reunion, though, I remain hopeful.

Marc Gross '73
New York City

Something Missing

I understand *CCT*'s enthusiasm for an article about *The New York Times Magazine* cover depicting happy students in 1988. Something "light" is good in a magazine now and then. And yes, I'm glad Columbia recovered from the 1968 conflict. However, there was not one word about the content of Morris Dickstein '61's article in that magazine, and I wonder what he wrote. I knew Morris, and he was a wise man.

Also, your article truly trivialized the 1968 events by not describing them at all. I was one of 800 people arrested. I was among several alumni who had participated in the building occupation, and unlike students, we alumni had to pay a fine for trespassing. Oh well, I accept that. I'm glad I wasn't another alumnus I know whom was badly beaten by police.

Allen Young '62, JRN'64
Orange, Mass.

Editor's note: To read more about the events of 1968, please see CCT*'s Spring 2018 issue or May/June 2008 issue, both under "Past Issues" on our website. The 1988* New York Times Magazine *cover story that accompanied the iconic Steps photo can be found online at bit.ly/47vtpsQ.*

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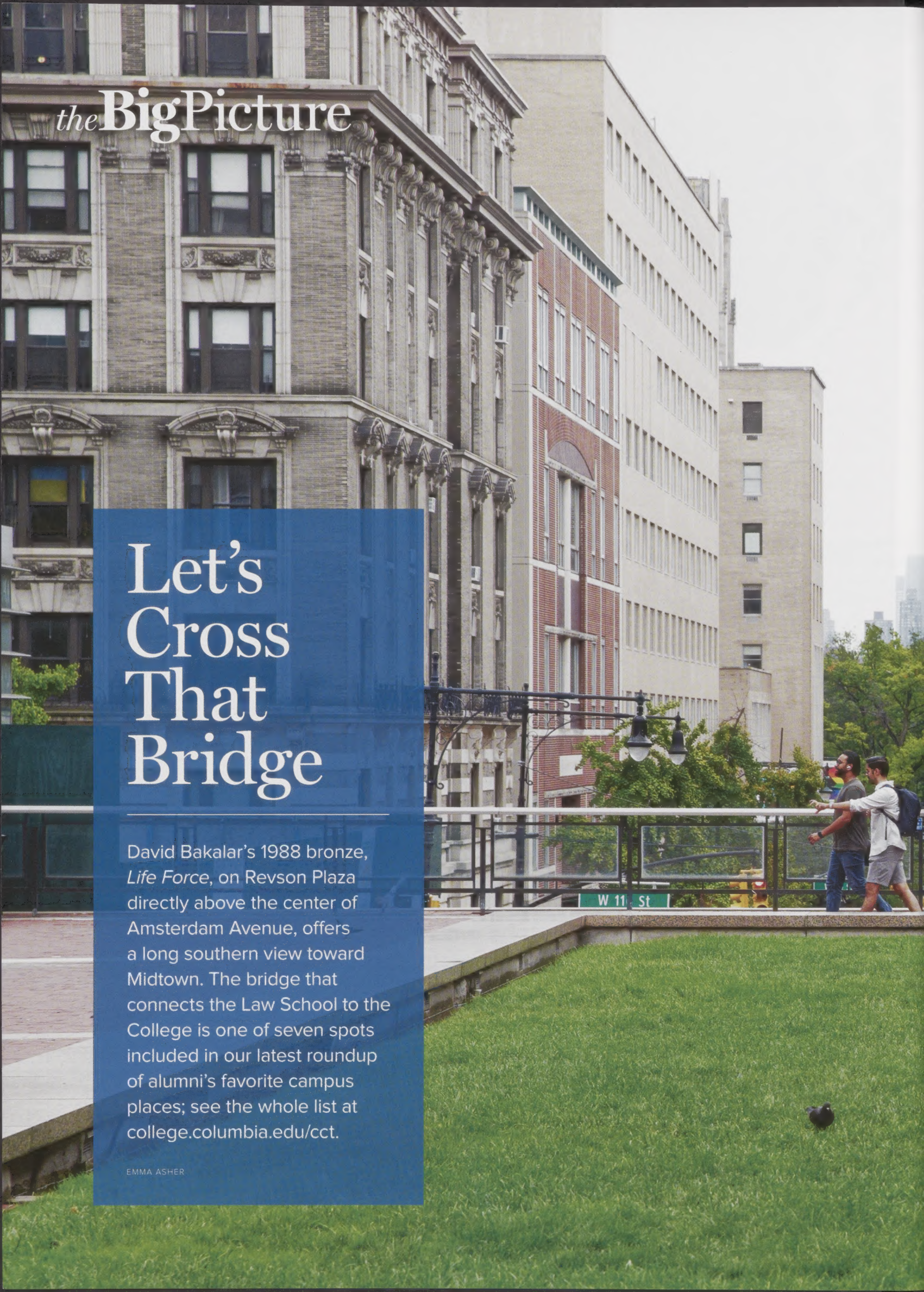

Let’s Cross That Bridge

David Bakalar’s 1988 bronze, *Life Force*, on Revson Plaza directly above the center of Amsterdam Avenue, offers a long southern view toward Midtown. The bridge that connects the Law School to the College is one of seven spots included in our latest roundup of alumni’s favorite campus places; see the whole list at college.columbia.edu/cct.

EMMA ASHER

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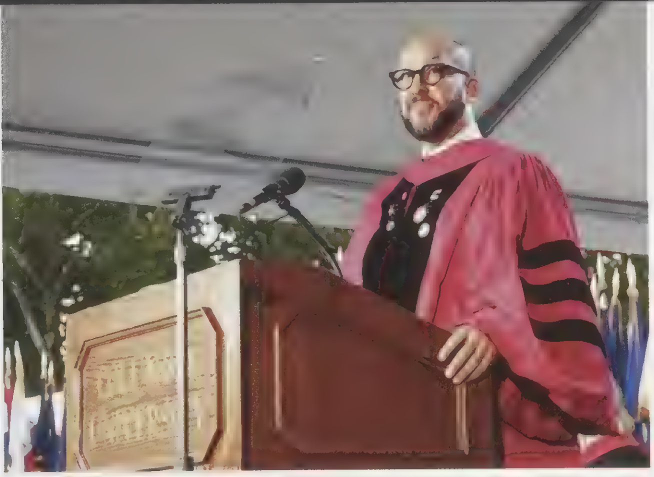
Message from the Dean

The Pursuit of the Good, Beautiful and Just

On August 27, at Convocation, I addressed the incoming Class of 2027. What follows is an excerpt from my speech, exploring the enduring values of the Core Curriculum and mission of Columbia College.


EILEEN BARROSO

On the occasion of this new beginning, I'd like to share words from the Greek poet Sappho, taken from Anne Carson's translation, *If Not, Winter*, which first-year students will encounter this fall in Lit Hum. The poems of Sappho survive in fragments, leaving tantalizing gaps and blank spaces with only the reader's imagination to fill them. The fragment I'd like to focus on reads as follows:

> I want to say something but shame
> prevents me
>
> yet if you had a desire for good or beautiful things
> and your tongue were not concocting some evil to say,
> shame would not hold down your eyes
> but rather you would speak about what is just.

Goodness. Beauty. Justice. Perhaps the most important thing one does as an undergraduate is engage with and build a thriving community among peers from different backgrounds, with divergent life experiences, and with many of whom you may appear to have little, if anything, in common.

More than any major you choose, club you join, internship you land or research project you pursue, learning from each other, living with each other and navigating the unfamiliar and unpredictable will be the cornerstones of your College life. I can say with confidence that what you encounter and confront here on this campus, during these years, will definitively shape the paths you make for yourselves in the decades to come.

Our job is to ensure that all of our students have spaces and language to ask questions, that you are invited and empowered to take risks and make mistakes as you pursue your curiosity, and that you recognize your value to one another and to the larger community. Facilitating this holistic experience — encompassing the curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular — is a defining feature of the College's mission.

We live in a time of change and upheaval, where many things taken for granted are being challenged. But there are some things that do not change, that must not change. The convergence of disparate ideas, cultures, religions, ideologies and identities you represent is an essential source of strength for our community — and our commitment to fostering and sustaining such an environment is unwavering.

The locus and living embodiment of this commitment to diversity of thought, dialogue and exploration is the Core Curriculum. Each of you will encounter and debate ideas — about equality, authority and difference — that challenge both you and your professors. Your views of yourself and the world will evolve. But none of this will happen in a vacuum.

You will not, and cannot, do it alone. The Core does not work without forthright collective engagement with difference of opinion, of viewpoint and interpretation. It is not easy, and the individual achievement many of you are used to striving for will not be the mark of success in this arena.

Across the syllabi of the Core Curriculum one finds competing ideas rather than a clear consensus. Students and faculty are invited to join in a culture of free inquiry, and to forge an informed independence of mind. Even still, in the face of these fragments, a clear theme recurs: The proper context, and end, for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge is community. The Core, at its best, both raises this query and models this ideal.

The pursuit of knowledge in community is not the pursuit of certainty, but the pursuit of more questions. You must get comfortable with multiple conflicting interpretations and an ability to live in — or move through — a grey, liminal space where there may not be an obvious right or wrong answer. Only more questions.

The enduring value of your liberal arts education will be the habits of mind you develop, and the skills for critical, creative and collective intellectual inquiry that you hone. These skills cannot be quantified with grades or test scores, much the same way it is impossible to quantify the value of each member of the community that will help you build them. If we do our jobs right, these habits of mind will become a living part of your intellect and a framework for engaging with the world long after you leave campus.

Like the fragments of Sappho's poetry, it is for you to fill in the blank spaces of the future where there are rarely certain answers. You must fill them with your own imagination, your own experience and your own curiosity — and marvel at the myriad and often surprising ways that others choose to fill in those same blanks.

I implore you to revel in your differences, celebrate the power of the new ideas they can reveal and recognize each other's unique contributions to our community. Hold fast to your curiosity, and the questions that drive you. Respect and nurture these same qualities in others, and remember that you need never be ashamed to hold your head high and look forward with clear eyes in the pursuit of good, beautiful and just things.

Josef Sorett
Dean of Columbia College and the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor
Vice President for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Religion and African American & African Diaspora Studies

Around the Quads

Words of Wisdom

The University's new president, Minouche Shafik, along with College and University leaders, welcomed undergraduates to campus during Convocation on August 27.

EILEEN BARROSO

Left to right: Engineering Dean Shih-Fu Chang, College Dean Josef Sorett, President Minouche Shafik, Executive Vice President and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Amy Hungerford and interim University Provost Dennis A. Mitchell.

Van Amson To Be 2023 Alexander Hamilton Medal Honoree

The 2023 Alexander Hamilton Medal will go to financial services executive George Van Amson '74, managing director of institutional equity sales and trading at Morgan Stanley. Van Amson is currently the head of The Americas Analyst and Associate Advising and Development Programs in Morgan Stanley's Institutional Equity Division.

George Van Amson '74

The Hamilton Medal is the highest honor awarded to a member of the Columbia College community and recognizes distinguished service to the College and accomplishment in any field of endeavor.

An economics major at the College, Van Amson is a 45-year Wall Street veteran with expertise in domestic and international markets as well as in organizational leadership. He joined Morgan Stanley in 1992 and held various senior trading roles before becoming manager of the sales trading service desk for global wealth management clients. Prior to that, Van Amson was a VP at Goldman Sachs in the Trading and Arbitrage Division. He earned an M.B.A. with honors from Harvard Business School in 1982.

"George's journey has been nothing short of extraordinary, marked by a resoundingly successful career and decades of dedicated service to both Columbia and the community more broadly," says Dean Josef Sorett. "He stands as a beacon of inspiration, an exceptional role model not only for our students but for the entire Columbia community."

Van Amson has received numerous awards during his career, including being named to *Black Enterprise*'s "Top African Americans on Wall Street" list three times (in 1992, 1996 and 2006). He was also the recipient of the 1993 World Economic Forum Global Leader award; the 2007 Racial Harmony award, presented by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding; the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from Brooklyn Technical H.S.; and the 2017 Harvard Business School Alumni Professional Achievement Award.

He has also been extremely active in his community. Van Amson was on the board of Harvard Business School Alumni Association and president of the HBS African American Alumni Association. He has been a member of the Riverside Church Council; chair of the United Negro College Fund Wall Street Campaign; a board member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and on the investment committee of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. He is currently vice-chair of the board of the Amsterdam Nursing Home and on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Opera.

As an undergraduate, Van Amson was the president of his first-year and sophomore classes, a varsity football and baseball player, a leader of Alpha Phi Alpha and an active member of the Black Students Organization. A dedicated alumnus, he visits campus often to mentor students and attend Lions football and basketball games.

Additionally, Van Amson remains connected to Columbia as a University Trustee emeritus and as a chair emeritus of the Columbia Alumni Association. He is also the director of Community Impact, a service organization that sends student volunteers into New York City neighborhoods, and has also been on the Columbia College Board of Visitors. Van Amson was honored with a 2000 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement, a 2009 Columbia Alumni Achievement Award and a 2013 Varsity C Alumni Athletic Award.

"Columbia gave me so much," he told *Columbia* magazine in 2011. "It gave me confidence, an intellectual foundation to build my career on and lifelong friends. I'm very loyal. And I love coming back here. I love being around the people here, participating in life on campus, and making the institution an even better place."

A Bronx native, Van Amson resides on the Upper West Side with his wife, Wendy PH'83; they have three children, Alexandra '13, Victoria '15 and Schuyler '17.

The 75th annual Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner will take place on Thursday, November 16, in Low Rotunda.

In Memoriam: Peter R. Pouncey, Ninth Dean of the College, Was Instrumental in Its Move to Coeducation

Peter R. Pouncey GSAS'69 — classicist, author, dean of Columbia College from 1972 to 1976 and a leading proponent for its move to coeducation — died on May 30, 2023. Pouncey, who also was president of Amherst College from 1984 to 1994, was 85 and lived in northern Connecticut.

Pouncey was one of the early leaders in Columbia's revival from the turmoil of the Vietnam War era. He was a strong proponent of admitting women to the all-male College, a move he considered vital to that revival, and often clashed on that issue with the University's more cautious central administration.

Possessed of a quick British wit and with a penchant for nicknames — "Pounce Dog" is the moniker he preferred for himself — Pouncey also was wary of technology, avoiding cellphones and approaching computers with caution. "They really do smell fear," he once told an interviewer from *The New York Times.*

Pouncey was born in Qingdao, China, on October 1, 1937. His father was British commissioner of Chinese customs until the Communist revolution in 1948; his mother was half French and half British, born in Shanghai to parents who were silk merchants. During WWII, Pouncey's mother took her three children to live in Vancouver while her husband remained in China. Following the war, the family reunited in England, where Pouncey attended boarding schools and earned a B.A. in classics in 1964 and an M.A. in 1967, both from Oxford.

After briefly training to become a Jesuit priest, Pouncey moved to New York to fill in for a professor on leave at Fordham. In 1969 he earned his Ph.D. in classics from Columbia and was appointed an assistant professor of Greek and Latin in the Classics Department.

It was a time of turmoil on many college campuses, including Columbia, where the Spring semesters in both 1968 and 1970 were abbreviated following widespread student protests over the Vietnam War and other issues. When Pouncey became dean of the College in 1972, he called himself "the cannon fodder dean" in reference to the upheaval on the Morningside campus.

Those challenges did not stop him from making his mark, especially with regard to coeducation. In 1975, Pouncey issued a report recommending the merger of the College, the School of General Studies, Barnard and the undergraduate division of Columbia Engineering into one dedicated undergraduate school for all Columbia students. Later that year he held a vote among College faculty on making the school coeducational, to the displeasure of President William J. McGill, who did not want to upset Barnard and thus rejected the proposal. However, that only delayed the decision; in December 1981, the University Trustees voted to make the College coed.

In 1976, Pouncey resigned as dean and returned to teaching in the Classics Department. His book *The Necessities of War: A Study of Thucydides' Pessimism* was published in 1980 and a year later won the Lionel Trilling Book Award for best new book by a faculty member, as determined by a panel of College students. "My main man is Thucydides," he told the *Times.* "He is very image conscious; he makes the reader attend, fix focus, slow up and see."

In 1984, Pouncey left Columbia to become president of Amherst, which was undergoing turmoil of its own following the sudden death of its president, Julian Gibbs, and a decision to abolish the fraternity system, the main form of social life on the rural campus. Pouncey's priorities were creating a robust post-fraternity social life on campus and attracting a more diverse student and faculty population. He thought Amherst needed to recruit students from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, first-generation students and others who might not see themselves as a natural fit in order for the school to have "a full sample of the nation's talent."

In addition, he strongly encouraged interdisciplinary programs and breaking down barriers between departments and established both the Department of Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies and the Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought Program. During his tenure, the endowment grew from $132 million to more than $320 million and a new student center, gymnasium and dormitory were built.

After Pouncey stepped down as president in 1994, he remained at Amherst as the Burnell-Forbes Professor of Greek until 1998, when he returned to Columbia to finish his teaching career as an adjunct at The Heyman Center for the Humanities and a member of the Society of Senior Scholars.

He published his only novel in 2005. On the day after Christmas 2003, Pouncey began to pull together the notes, musings and ruminations he had been keeping in a box since 1981. Seven weeks later, he had edited them into a 200-page manuscript version of *Rules for Old Men Waiting,* the story of Robert MacIver, whose life spans three wars and a 40-year marriage. The book won the McKitterick Prize in 2006 and was nominated for the Commonwealth Writers Prize the same year.

In 1985, Pouncey was presented the College's highest honor, the Alexander Hamilton Medal, along with other former deans Lawrence H. Chamberlain, David B. Truman, Carl F. Hovde '50 and Arnold R. Collery.

Pouncey is survived by his son, Christian (Victoria); daughter, Maggie '00, SOA'08 (Matt Miller); stepdaughter, Emily Liebert (Vlad Kobzar); and five grandchildren.

— Alex Sachare '71

A RECIPE BOOK
Soups

Did*You*Know?

Columbia Has Its Own Cookbook

During WWII, a group of women married to Columbia faculty decided to raise money to support the war effort by creating a cookbook. The result, *What's Cooking at Columbia: A Recipe Book,* showcased the wives' favorite recipes and kitchen techniques; the proceeds from the book went to the University Committee for War Relief. A few Columbia-affiliated men participated as well — Dean Harry Carman included his recipe for "Harry's Own Griddlecakes" and, in the updated 1948 version, then-University President Dwight D. Eisenhower contributed a recipe for vegetable soup. Check out the time capsule of recipes — for everything from vintage salads (some featuring gelatin or marshmallows) and desserts (like a cherry cake and chocolate-lemon wafers), to main dishes like pot roast and salmon loaf — at news.columbia.edu/content/whats-cooking-columbia-recipe-book.

Student*Spotlight*

Teji Vijayakumar '24 and Chukwuma Orji '24

*Meet **Teji Vijayakumar '24** (she/her), president of the 2023–24 Columbia College Student Council Executive Board, and **Chukwuma Orji '24** (he/him), VP policy of the 2023–24 Executive Board. CCSC members are elected to serve as representatives on the students' behalf and to advocate for those students to the wider University community. Vijayakumar is a double major in computer science and visual art and Orji is a cognitive science major with a concentration in computer science.*

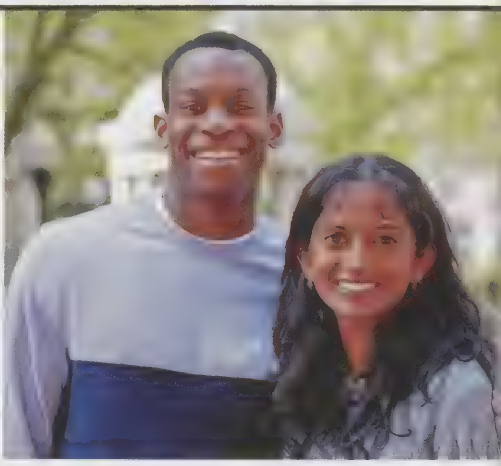
What are you hoping to accomplish with CCSC this year?

Vijayakumar: We have a lot of goals! I'm so excited about making healthcare more transparent and accessible on campus — a lot of students don't really understand how medical insurance works or what is or isn't covered. We want to address and try to expand this as much as possible. I'm also really excited for smaller events that I hope will build spirit and community. Little seasonal events, like Easter egg hunts or snowman-making contests or a Butler haunted house!

Orji: We're looking at class registration and how we can make that an easier process; we're in our senior year, and sometimes people are still getting in to only one class that they need, which can be frustrating and stressful! And we're also continuing conversations about how we can improve mental health on campus, like how we can make resources more accessible and how we can raise awareness of the options for seeking help.

What's been your favorite class so far?

Vijayakumar: I took a class last Spring, "Epic India: The Rama Story in Visual Art," taught by Professor Subhashini Kaligotla. It was amazing. We basically spent the whole semester talking about and looking at one Hindu epic, the *Ramayana,* and ways it has been portrayed in paintings, cartoons, movies, animation and so on. Alongside the visuals, we also read a bunch of essays and several translations and retellings of the *Ramayana.* So, really just becoming extremely familiar with this one story has been super, super rewarding and engaging.


EMMA ASHER

Chukwuma Orji '24 and Teji Vijayakumar '24

How do you like to take advantage of being in New York City?

Orji: I'm a fiend for restaurants and cafes; if I have a free hour or two, I will pick a random location and just see what's there. I love how many different options there are for food and drinks in New York, so I just like to see as many as I can.

Outside of CCSC, what extracurriculars do you participate in on campus?

Orji: I'm part of the Columbia Bartending Agency, which is super exciting. You take a mixology class, and you can get certified and do different gigs with a lot of alums.

Vijayakumar: I'm on a dance team called Taal. It's a South Asian classical fusion dance team, and I love it. It's so much of my life! We choreograph everything together and are a really tight-knit group!

The Core's Great Community

BETTMANN / GETTY IMAGES

Philosopher John Dewey thought democracy could survive only if we foster a "great community."

By Larry Jackson

One of the joys of being the director of the Witten Center for the Core Curriculum is getting to delve into the history of this unique academic program, now in its second century. This past summer, I read articles about the Core by Columbia faculty that CCT *published through the decades. They provided updates about the Core as well as summaries of the authors' visions for the future of this ever-changing curriculum. In the spirit of those earlier articles, I'll be offering a glimpse into the Core from time to time in these pages.*

Perhaps the greatest influence on the early history of the Core Curriculum was philosopher John Dewey, who taught at Columbia for 25 years. In his 1927 book, *The Public and Its Problems,* Dewey argued that democracy as a way of life could survive only if we could foster a "great community" in the midst of a vast society in which we are increasingly alienated from one another. I like to think that this is what we are doing today in the Core. Our great community begins in small groups of 22 and grows outward as class discussions continue in dining halls, residence hall lounges and on the Steps of Low Library. This year, we will have around 5,000 students enrolled each semester in Literature Humanities, Frontiers of Science, Contemporary Civilization, Art Humanities and Music Humanities. They will be taught by nearly 250 faculty from 25 academic departments.

EMMA ASHER

Core Curriculum director Larry Jackson

And, of course, this community is not restricted to Morningside Heights. It extends across generations and continents to include all of you, our alumni.

I had a chance to see just how large and influential our Core community is during a recent visit to Sabancı University in Istanbul. For 25 years, Sabancı has offered a unique liberal arts education to students in an academic context that often stresses specialized professional training over free curricular exploration. I spoke with one of the university's founding deans, a Columbia College alumnus, who told me that he and his colleagues were inspired by our Core to develop a similar general education program for Sabancı's undergraduates, which they named the Foundations Development Program. It was moving to meet their students and hear how much the liberal arts education that we often take for granted at Columbia has opened their minds and changed their lives.

Something else we too often take for granted at Columbia is academic freedom. A little more than a decade ago, 1,000 Turkish academics, including 30 professors at Sabancı, signed a petition calling for the government to peacefully resolve its conflict with the Kurds. The signers of the Academics for Peace petition were investigated and hundreds were charged with terrorism. Public universities were forced to fire petitioners, but Sabancı stood firm, and the faculty members who signed the petition kept their jobs.

Sabancı is one of several universities that we are now partnering with as we carry on the Core's tradition of grappling with the challenges and debates taking place in higher education. When the College established the Core in 1919 as a single course, Contemporary Civilization, the idea was to prepare students for "the insistent problems of the present." These included the catastrophic fallout of WWI, a deadly flu pandemic, a political crackdown on dissent and immigration in the United States, and anti-Black violence at the hands of vigilantes and police. But the Core also grew out of a newly emerging debate about the aims and methods of education. In the early years of the 20th century, educators and social reformers considered how best to teach the youth of a modern democratic society that was facing increasingly complex problems that would require new forms of expertise, innovation and, most importantly, social cooperation.

Today, we grapple with similar crises, and debates about the role of education in democratic life continue. Books are being banned in schools and libraries. Humanities programs are being shuttered. Artificial intelligence threatens the honest and original development of ideas. These are the kinds of problems that we will discuss in our classes and faculty meetings, and with partners like Sabancı, this year.

After returning from Istanbul and seeing the twin pressures of specialized professional training and anti-democratic politics that liberal arts universities there are facing, I am especially appreciative of the kind of education that we are able to offer at the College, and for the kind of community that it fosters — one based on the respectful exchange of diverse ideas and perspectives.

It is also clear to me that the stakes of what we do here could not be higher, that the simple act of sitting in a classroom with 20 peers discussing ideas can be the beginning of a great, democratic community that can have an impact on the wider world.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

At 100, Recalling One for the History Books

Footballer Al Kachadurian BUS'48 looks back on Columbia's timeless triumph over Army

By Charles Butler '85, JRN'99

One morning this past summer, Al Kachadurian BUS'48 sat at a dining table in the senior living center he's called home for the last 15 years and watched a video of a football game played 76 years ago. It was in black and white, the quality spotty and with no narration. But every few seconds Kachadurian would lean in and say, "There I am."

He pointed to the player wearing number 43. On the day of this game, October 25, 1947, at Baker Field, Kachadurian was 24, married with a baby daughter, and a Lions defensive back playing in a game that would become ageless: Columbia, soundly beaten by Ivy League opponents in its two previous games, versus Army, ranked sixth in the nation and owners of a celebrated 32-game unbeaten streak.

Al Kachadurian BUS'48

PHOTOS COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

When he wasn't spotting his own number, Kachadurian was reliving the crunching tackles he and his teammates made that day. "Don't forget: no face masks and no mouthpieces," he reminded a visitor viewing alongside. "And we hit as hard as hell. We didn't care; when you're that age, you don't give a damn." Later, he watched as quarterback Gene Rossides '49, LAW'52 dodged Army tacklers for a key first down. And, like the 35,000 fans packing Baker Field that afternoon, Kachadurian admired once more the swooping fourth-quarter receptions made by Bill Swiacki BUS'48 that would be talked about for years. "He made a lot of great catches," Kachadurian said.

What he really wanted to see, though, was his interception — a play that helped secure one of the great upsets in college football history: Columbia 21, Army 20.

Kachadurian watched this video a few weeks after he had turned 100, on May 12. The day before his birthday, his teammate on defense Robert Lincoln '49 had died at 96. With Lincoln's passing, according to Columbia Athletics, Kachadurian was likely the last surviving member of the famed team.

He had taken a circuitous route to Columbia, which wasn't unusual for players of that era. Like several of his teammates, Kachadurian served during WWII. An all-state quarterback as a high school senior in Paterson, N.J., Kachadurian played one year at Lafayette College before enlisting in the Navy. He was stationed on a ship in the Brooklyn Navy Yard when the war ended. At the request of his wife, Janet,

Lou Kusserow '49 (#41) scores Columbia's first touchdown against Army; it was the first time in 1947 the Cadets' goal line was crossed.

Kachadurian decided to stay close to his New Jersey home to finish college. One day, before the 1946 season, he made an unannounced visit to the Upper West Side apartment of legendary Columbia coach Lou Little. "I introduced myself and he said, 'Let me see your grades at Lafayette,'" Kachadurian recalled. "My grades were good — not great but good. I showed him my credentials and he said, 'OK, I'll see if I can get you in.'" A week later, Kachadurian was enrolled as an undergraduate in the Business School.

Kachadurian knew playing for Little could pay off; the coach had elevated the football team's national profile after coming to Columbia in 1930. First came a 7–0 upset of mighty Stanford in the 1934 Rose Bowl. Then, with his revolutionary wing-T offense, he helped mold quarterback Sid Luckman '39 into a future Hall of Famer. At times, Columbia was even ranked among the top football schools; early in the 1947 season it had risen to number 11.

But few gave Little and his Lions much of a chance when they faced the Cadets, a powerhouse during the war years. A year earlier, Army had run over the Lions 48–14. "They beat the crap out of us," Kachadurian put it bluntly. Still, Baker Field sold out. Among the fans was Janet, who used one of four tickets given to players. "'You come in with one ticket and sell the other three,'" Kachadurian recalled telling his wife. "I was living with my in-laws. We needed the money."

Through the first half, Janet and the Columbia faithful had little to cheer. Army led 20–7. But during halftime, quarterback Rossides, who would go on to hold positions in two White House administrations, exhorted his teammates. "I just said, 'We can do this; we gotta do this,'" Rossides recalled in a 2013 interview. "I went around the room to the players, these veterans who are three and four years older than me."

Kachadurian and his fellow defenders got the message. They held Army scoreless in the second half. (The Lions, as it turned out, gave up just 8 points over the final four games of the season.) Meanwhile, Columbia's offense, using what Red Smith of the *New York Herald Tribune* called "a forward passing attack so versatile that it destroyed the Cadets' habitual poise," picked Army apart. In the fourth quarter, two improbable connections between Rossides and Swiacki — the first, a sprawling touchdown grab; the second, a diving catch setting up a short touchdown run by Lou Kusserow '49 — delivered a win to rival the Rose Bowl victory.

Kachadurian didn't head back to Morningside Heights for the post-game celebration, where, according to *Spectator,* "a sizeable aggregation of celebrants held libations nightlong" at the popular West End bar. He had a family at home. "I was the only married guy on the team," Kachadurian said. (He and Janet, who died in 2011, later had two more children.) Graduation came the following spring, as did a couple of NFL offers, but they didn't pay enough. Eventually Kachadurian took over a family business. He kept up with many of his old teammates, and recalled that at one reunion Rossides spotlighted him. "I'm bragging a bit, but he said one of the reasons Columbia had a great team in '47 was our defense," said Kachadurian, who had a team-high six interceptions that season.

All these years later, he has not lost his competitive spirit. He's on a bocce team in his New Jersey senior living community; they play a few times a week. And, as he keeps watching the video of the Army win, he keeps searching for his interception; it stopped an Army scoring drive.

He never spots the play. It doesn't matter. The memory remains fresh.

Charles Butler '85, JRN'99 *is a journalism professor at the University of Oregon. He is researching a book on Lou Little.*

Bill Swiacki BUS'48 makes "The Catch" that would be talked about for years.

AN APPRECIATION

Al Bagnoli Brought Back Lions Football Pride

By Alex Sachare '71

Twenty years ago, I was sitting in Low Library with a longtime member of the Athletics Department, awaiting the start of a news conference that would introduce head football coach Bob Shoop. My friend turned to me and quietly asked, "How many of these have you been to?"

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS / MIKE MCLAUGHLIN

At the time I was five years into my tenure as editor-in-chief of *CCT*. "Five or six," I said, "but remember, before I took this job I was away from Columbia for more than 25 years."

He smiled and shook his head. "Yeah, you missed a few in between."

In any business, frequent turnover often is a sign of failure, stability a mark of success. When Al Bagnoli took over in February 2015, he inherited a program that had churned through three head coaches in a dozen years (10 since I'd arrived on campus as a first-year in 1967). But Bagnoli, who announced his retirement from coaching in August for health reasons, brought much-needed stability to the Columbia football program. At the time, it seemed like an impossible dream — those Lions were a non-competitive, dispirited football team that was losing games at an alarming rate and losing players as fast as they could be recruited. Coming off consecutive 0–10 seasons under Coach Pete Mangurian, the team seemed poised to do the unimaginable: make a run at the infamous 44-game losing streak of 1983–88, then the longest in college football history.

Bagnoli, meanwhile, was at Penn, having been moved upstairs following two losing seasons at the end of a stellar 23-year run during which the Quakers had won nine Ivy League championships. But Bagnoli, who had compiled a 148–80 record at Penn, had grown antsy as an administrator and jumped at the opportunity to return to the sidelines at Columbia.

His success was by no means a sure thing. Unlike perennially powerful Penn, Columbia had a losing tradition, with just five winning seasons since the Ivy League began football play in 1956. Skeptics questioned whether Bagnoli, then 62, would be able to inject the necessary energy and enthusiasm into the program or whether he was taking the job for one last big payday before retirement.

Bagnoli proved them wrong. It took two years to scrape off the barnacles, but by the time his second full recruiting class arrived on campus in 2017, Bagnoli had planted the seeds for a successful culture change and was about to reap the rewards. His mantra: Make football fun again.

The 2017 team offered a peek at things to come. In its season opener, against Wagner, the Lions drove 54 yards to set up Oren Milstein '20's 29-yard field goal as time expired for a 17–14 win. Spirit and confidence seemed to grow by the week, and by the time the Lions rolled into October's Homecoming game — coincidentally against Bagnoli's old team — they'd added three more wins for a 4–0 record.

The first three quarters belonged to Penn but seemingly out of nowhere Columbia scored three touchdowns to take the lead. A Quakers touchdown with 1:21 to play forced overtime, but Columbia's defense held Penn to a field goal on the opening possession and then Anders Hill '18 completed a pass to Josh Wainwright '21 for a 24-yard touchdown and a 34–31 win. Hundreds of students, alumni and fans poured onto the field to join players and coaches to celebrate the victory.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS / MIKE McLAUGHLIN

Making football fun again: The Lions celebrate after their 34–31 Homecoming win over Penn in October 2017.

The difference between that joyous scene and the atmosphere that had surrounded the team in Bagnoli's first two seasons was striking. As co-captain and defensive back Landon Baty '19 said, "For so long, football has been a blemish on Columbia University. But now, it's something to take pride in."

Most importantly, that 8–2 season was not an anomaly. Bagnoli led the Lions to a 6–4 record in 2018 and to winning slates in four of the last five seasons (the 2020 campaign was cancelled due to the pandemic). Not since the 1930s Lions teams coached by Lou Little, including the squad that won the 1934 Rose Bowl, had Columbia compiled a similar string of success.

When Bagnoli, now 70, announced his retirement, he had unfinished business at Columbia. Despite a stellar career won-lost record of 269–134, he never led the Lions to the Ivy League championship, and his record at Columbia was 35–35, just one win shy of a winning mark, something even the legendary Little did not achieve.

But one of the time-honored measures of success is leaving a place in better shape than when you got there. Bagnoli did just that as the Columbia's 20th head football coach.

Alex Sachare '71 *is a former sports editor of* Spectator *and a contributing editor to and former editor-in-chief of* CCT.

Athletics Hall of Fame Names 2023 Class

A pair of Olympians from the past decade, swimmer **Katie Meili '13** and fencer **Nicole Ross '13,** are among the 22 individuals and four teams that will be inducted to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame this fall. A black-tie dinner and ceremony will be held at Cipriani 25 on Thursday, October 12.

Meili is one of the most decorated student-athletes in Columbia history. She earned All-America honors in five events and back-to-back Most Outstanding Swimmer awards at the Ivy League Championships, and captured two medals at the Rio Olympics in 2016 — a bronze in the 100m breaststroke and a gold as a member of the 4x100m medley relay squad. Ross, meanwhile, was a three-time All-American in foil, won the 2010 NCAA Individual Championship and competed at the 2012 Olympics in London.

CU ATHLETICS / MIKE McLAUGHLIN

Katie Meili '13

On the men's side, the honorees include football's **Josh Martin '13,** a three-time All-Ivy League selection who played in the NFL from 2013 to 2020; baseball's **Dario Pizzano '13,** who played three seasons with the Lions before being drafted by the Seattle Mariners; and basketball's **Ricky Free '79,** a three-time All-Ivy selection who ranks in the program's top five in career field goal percentage and rebounding.

THE IVY LEAGUE

Nicole Ross '13

Among the staff members being inducted are men's tennis head coach **Bid Goswami,** whose 37 years at the helm saw the Lions take 14 Ivy League team titles, and former Athletics Director **M. Dianne Murphy,** who was with Columbia from 2004 to 2015. Among her accomplishments, she oversaw the planning and construction of the Campbell Sports Center at the Baker Athletics Complex and the creation of the Women's Leadership Council.

For the complete list of honorees, visit gocolumbialions.com.

Building Blocks

Blondel Pinnock '90 is leading a new era of community development in Central Brooklyn

By Alexis Boney SOA'11

Photographs by Jörg Meyer

Fulton St
Marcy Av
TAK KING
DELI GROCERY
TASTEE PATTIES
JAMAICAN BAKERY

RESTORE
BEDFORD STUYVESANT
RESTORATION CORPORATION

ABOVE RIGHT: Sen. Robert F. Kennedy announces a new model of community development, circa 1967.

BELOW: Children gather for Restoration's annual Easter Egg Hunt in 1973.

Last year, on a sweltering Thursday in late July, hundreds of people packed into Central Brooklyn's Billie Holiday Theatre to hear Vice President Kamala Harris reveal a historic effort — the formation of the Economic Opportunity Coalition (EOC), a 24-member partnership committed to investing billions of dollars in underserved communities nationwide. The coalition included philanthropic leaders such as The Rockefeller Foundation and Ford Foundation, alongside big-name businesses like Netflix, McDonald's and Bank of America.

The choice of location for the announcement wasn't just — well, theater. The Billie, as it's affectionately known, is located in Restoration Plaza, a sprawling mixed-use space superintended by the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., the nation's first community development organization. Restoration was founded in 1967, when its namesake neighborhood had become a national symbol of urban blight and racial disparity; in the years since it has served as a major force for economic, cultural and educational improvements. Put another way, the nonprofit was a pioneer in exactly the type of public-private partnership the EOC is pursuing.

"All across our nation there are places like Bed-Stuy — reservoirs of ambition and aspiration — just waiting to be tapped," Harris said. "Because of [Restoration's] success it remains not only the first, but a model for all the rest."

For Restoration CEO Blondel Pinnock '90, who introduced the Vice President at the event, being in the national spotlight crystallized the significance of the role she'd begun less than a month earlier. "Before, I'd viewed it as, 'I'm up to this challenge. All the things that Restoration touches are in my toolchest,'" Pinnock says. "Then you have a moment like that, which reminds you of the greatness of this organization and its history — and what it means to sit in this seat."

Pinnock, the first woman to lead Restoration in its 56 years, has come to the nonprofit at something of an evolutionary moment. While its mission has remained the same since its inception — to close the Black-white wealth divide in Central Brooklyn — the context in which it operates has changed dramatically. The Bed-Stuy of the 1960s was synonymous with crime and poverty and was periodically destabilized by racial tensions, including a terrifying four-day riot in summer 1964. Restoration's origin story begins two years later, when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy took a walking tour that brought him face to face with the neighborhood's decline: dirty streets, piles of refuse, abandoned buildings and run-down housing. Afterward, Kennedy met with community members who challenged him to put his ideas for community and economic revitalization into practice. The more cynical residents derided him as "another white guy that's out here for the day." But by the end of the year, Kennedy had joined with Sen. Jacob Javits and Mayor John Lindsay to launch the anti-poverty program that became Restoration.

These days, Bed-Stuy is one of the fastest gentrifying neighborhoods in the United States, with escalating rents and home values that are becoming untenable for long-term residents. Pinnock's predecessor Colvin Grannum recognized that Restoration needed an economic mobility platform for the current era, one focused on generating Black wealth at a level that was livable for the area.

Pinnock is charged with steering the plan Grannum initiated to fruition. It's

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headlined by an ambitious renovation and expansion of Restoration Plaza, creating an 840,000-square-foot site to be called Restoration Innovation Campus. The design is by architect David Adjaye, whose credits include the National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C. It reflects a commitment to four pillars: putting arts and culture front and center, offering employment and educational opportunities for young people, maintaining open space, and having meaningful retail that will benefit the community.

A new tower will be dedicated to technology jobs training, which Pinnock believes is a necessary emphasis. "We have tech hubs now in downtown Brooklyn, in the Navy Yard, in Industry City," she says. "We're saying we should have a technology ecosystem right here in Central Brooklyn, and that it could be a catalyst for the creation of Black wealth." Pinnock notes that the racial wealth gap, which has long existed, was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic; in Brooklyn, it's currently estimated to be $40–$50 billion.

"We know that we need to help this community make a difference and try to bridge that the best that we can," she says. "These are the opportunities that young people in this community need."

Restoration's first CEO was also a Columbia graduate, the late Franklin A. Thomas '56, LAW'63. A philanthropic leader and advocate for social and economic justice, Thomas is perhaps most well known as the first Black president of the Ford Foundation. But 12 years before taking that role, when he was a deputy commissioner in the NYPD, he was tapped by Kennedy and Javits to lead the nascent Restoration. (Thomas had the additional qualification of being born and raised in Bed-Stuy.) He agreed to serve for two years, and held the job for a decade.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Franklin A. Thomas '56, LAW'63 (right) tour Design Works, a Restoration program created to amplify the talents of artists living in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Photo circa 1970.

Pinnock brings up this connection during our interview in Restoration's headquarters: "It makes me wonder, what is it about Columbia that makes us want to do this type of work? I think it says a lot about what we're taught and why we do some of what we do.

"When I look at some of my College peers and the work that they're doing, it all seems to be this good work — 'the good trouble,'" she continues, quoting Rep. John Lewis. "These are people who could be anywhere and do anything, but clearly we want to make sure that we're having an impact on our communities, on our neighborhoods, in some cases on our cities — that we're using our talents to make sure that people are receiving equity."

> "We're saying we should have a technology ecosystem right here in Central Brooklyn, and that it could be a catalyst for the creation of Black wealth."

Pinnock originally thought she'd do that good work as an attorney. The native Bronxite chose the College because it was "the best local school" and she wanted to be near her parents, Jamaican immigrants who were older and relied heavily on her. She pursued her career interests outside of class, notably interning for Law School professors Kendall Thomas LAW'83 and Kellis Parker.

"Kellis was really at the forefront of creating race in law," Pinnock says. "It was the beginning of what people now call critical race theory." She recalls seeing legal scholars and civil rights activists Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw and Lani Guinier come through his office. "They'd all be talking about the work they were doing in this space; I was privileged to be sitting there," she says. At Columbia Pinnock also revived the defunct Charles Hamilton Houston Pre-Law Society, wanting to do her part to encourage minority representation in legal careers (Houston was the NAACP's first general counsel).

Pinnock went to Hofstra Law, the only time she has ever lived outside of the city. But after graduation and several years of law firm life, she was surprised to discover a new love: real estate. She took the first of several leaps of faith, as she puts it, and landed at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. "It was one of the best decisions I made," she says, "because I had the opportunity to learn about city government and how to use public policy to shape the creation of neighborhoods from an economic development standpoint."

After three years, much of it spent working with affordable housing developers in Harlem, Washington Heights and the outer boroughs, Pinnock wanted to

ABOVE:
Pinnock oversees a $15 million budget and about 105 full-time employees.

LOWER RIGHT:
Restoration renovated the Sheffield Farms milk bottling plant for its headquarters, seen here circa 1975.

understand more about loans: "How do developers get money, and who makes the decisions?"

To answer those questions she took another leap, this time into banking. She spent 10 years each at Fleet (which later merged with Bank of America) and Carver Federal Savings Bank. The experience was a little bit David and Goliath, says Pinnock, "going to one of the smallest banks from a major, multinational institution. But at that time [Carver] was the largest Black-managed and Black-run bank in the country. It had been around for 55 or 60 years — it was known in the community as the bank for Black people.

"I was able to be part of so many projects and programs," she adds, "in particular in Harlem, the Bronx and Brooklyn, and to see how developers and the city come together to fix blight and to create communities and neighborhoods. I loved being part of that community development ecosystem."

> "I appreciate that in the beginning — whatever was being discussed about community building — that there was a voice that said, 'You also need the arts.'"

Pinnock eventually started her own consultancy, then entered the nonprofit world for the first time as COO of the Greater Jamaica Development Corp., a community-building organization in Queens. She was there almost three years; its mission was similar to Restoration's — so much, notes Pinnock, that when the opportunity to apply came along, "the former CEO there was the one who said, 'You should go for it.'"

Restoration Plaza occupies a full square block on Fulton Street, between New York and Brooklyn Avenues. It was once the site of the Sheffield Farms milk bottling plant; looking up at the main building, you can see details of cow heads and bottles on the columned façade. The plaza, completed in 1972, is home

to locally owned businesses, nonprofits and government offices that deal in health, financial and social services. There's an art gallery and the Billie Holiday Theatre, alongside staples including a bank and post office. Pinnock notes that several neighborhood firsts opened here, including the first supermarket and the first sit-down restaurant, an Applebee's.

"Restoration really became this convening spot," she says, reflecting on its place in the life of the neighborhood. "Everyone I meet and talk to about Brooklyn has a story about it — this was where they had their first dance, their first job, where they met their mother after school. It was that safe place, where everyone knew that they could come and gather."

For those who prefer data to anecdote, Restoration's success can be illustrated with any number of statistics: It has found jobs for more than 24,000 youths and adults, constructed or renovated more than 7,500 housing units and provided $60 million in mortgage financing to nearly 1,500 homeowners. (At its height, Restoration was the second largest real estate owner in Brooklyn, after the City of New York.) Its scope also encompasses financial empowerment and youth services, health and fitness, environmental awareness and small business assistance.

Pinnock is especially proud of Restoration's commitment to arts and culture, evidenced most prominently through its stewardship of the Billie. Opened in 1972, the theater has its own storied history, with a mission of offering artistic freedom to artists of African descent and providing audiences with complete and authentic portrayals of Black experiences worldwide. Debbie Allen, Samuel L. Jackson and Smokey Robinson have all performed there. In March, Pinnock traveled to the White House to accept a National Medal of Arts from President Biden on the Billie's behalf, "for being an artistic jewel of the nation."

"I appreciate that in the beginning — whatever was being discussed about community building — that there was a voice that said, 'You also need the arts,'" says Pinnock, herself a talented singer and former pianist (she attended the music and arts school that became LaGuardia H.S.). "You need to have an outlet for people to be able to see themselves on stage and to be able to experience and share their stories." She welcomes the perks of proximity. "We had Nikole Hannah-Jones, from 'The 1619 Project,' here the other day, doing a talkback. When you're having a hard day, to be able to go downstairs and see a play or performance, that can be a real highlight."

Pinnock has all the responsibilities that come with overseeing a major nonprofit: It has a budget around $15 million and about 105 full-time and 20 part-time employees. "We have to do all the things to make sure the organization stays relevant in this community and that we are providing the programming that's needed," she says. She ticks through a few examples including tax prep, workforce development and home weatherization programs. "Restoration falls into this space where, if there's a community need, we have been there to fill it."

Pinnock has also spent the past year on something of a local listening tour. When the plans for Innovation Campus began in 2019, a series of community focus groups were held to learn what residents wanted and needed in the neighborhood. Then came the pandemic. "From 2019 to 2023, in the world of Covid, is a lot of years," she says. "Part of my remit is to talk to the community about what's changed — is there anything else they would like to see us do on this campus in addition to the things that were said before? We can't assume we know what they want. But really take a pulse and find out what the community is looking for today."

Restoration is still a few years from breaking ground on the new campus, but Pinnock is unfazed by the timeline. "The work that we're doing on the ground *today* is what's going to get that project done," she says. "Almost every week we're talking to the project management team, the architectural team, our counsel, our fundraisers. We have timelines and deadlines that we need to make to move this project forward. I welcome that work — that's the visionary piece.

"It's exciting. One of the reasons I took this job is to be part of the new era of Restoration."

The Applebee's in Restoration Plaza was the first sit-down restaurant in the neighborhood.

The Battle Over Books

By Jill C. Shomer

American Library Association president Emily Drabinski '97 is fighting for the right to read

We might not yet be living *Fahrenheit 451*, but book bans are definitely heating up. The national media has made it hard to miss the measures being taken by conservative groups like Moms for Liberty and politicians like Florida's governor Ron DeSantis to remove books from school libraries. In February, a Pensacola school board voted to ban a children's book about two male penguins raising a chick; last fall, *The Bluest Eye,* by Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, was pulled from shelves in a school district outside Dallas-Fort Worth.

American Library Association (ALA) president Emily Drabinski '97 is on the front lines in this increasingly contentious battle for the right to read. "Libraries didn't choose to be the terrain of struggle, but here we are," she says.

There is reason for concern — instances of book bans are multiplying, and they're not just happening in schools. The number of attempts to remove or restrict books doubled in 2021 and nearly doubled again in 2022, according

Photographs by Jörg Meyer

Drabinski has strong connections with library leaders at Columbia. "I'm grateful for Emily's courageous leadership and persistent vocal support for library workers whose brave efforts uphold the essential value of intellectual freedom," said Ann Thornton, vice provost and University librarian. "We must strengthen our resolve to ensure that libraries are for everyone."

to the ALA. Its Office for Intellectual Freedom documented 1,269 demands to censor public and school library books and resources last year, the highest number of challenges since the ALA began compiling data in 2001. Forty-eight percent of those targeted materials in public libraries.

A record 2,572 unique titles have come under fire, most by and about LGBTQ and BIPOC authors and experiences; a snapshot of challenged books includes *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe (LGBTQ content, claimed to be sexually explicit); *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky (depiction of sexual abuse, LGBTQ content, drug use); and *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (profanity, violence, thought to promote an anti-police message and indoctrination of a social agenda).

Drabinski assumed the leadership role on July 1, serving a one-year term during a critical moment in the history of American libraries. "Public libraries have only a teeny fraction of most city budgets, which makes them very vulnerable," says Drabinski, an associate professor at Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. "Library workers need support — they need media training and advocacy training to talk about what's happening. And we have to make sure the public sees that the library is an anchor institution in their communities."

She is the first publicly gay ALA president, which is relevant at a time when LGBTQ life is under attack. Of the 13 titles on the ALA-compiled "Most Challenged Books of 2022" list, seven (including three of the top four) were singled out for having LGBTQ content. Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, said the list "sends a message to the LGBTQ community as a whole that they're not considered full citizens with full rights to participate in community institutions like the library."

Significantly, Drabinski campaigned on a pro-labor platform that emphasized the importance of organizing library workers. "I come out of unions, and that's shaped my theory of change," she says. "If we want to win, we need mass movements and density — I think a densely unionized sector is crucial to the survival of libraries. Because the people who are fighting back against book banning every day are the people who work at the library. The project for me is to help more library workers understand and build their own power, which we can exercise collectively for the world that we want."

"Emily is a strong and passionate advocate for library workers, libraries and the ALA," says Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, ALA president from 2022 to 2023. "She lives her values and I am excited to see how she continues leading the ALA, bringing a focus to library worker rights in addition to fighting for intellectual freedom and communities."

The ALA reports that prior to 2020, the vast majority of banning attempts were made by individuals who sought to restrict access to a single book their child was reading. But the group found that 90 percent of recent challenges were directed at multiple books, and nearly 20 percent were made by political or religious groups. The ALA considers the sharp increase in book bans as evidence of an attack "by a growing, well-organized, conservative political movement, the goals of which include removing books about race, history, gender identity, sexuality and reproductive health from America's public and school libraries that do not meet their approval."

Drabinski's first library job was organizing the card catalogs in Butler.

Drabinski chuckles when she says she is "popular" with the right-wing media. After she was elected in April 2022, Drabinski tweeted that she couldn't believe "a Marxist lesbian" would be the next president of the ALA. It got around. (The tweet has since auto-deleted; Drabinski doesn't keep messages longer than 30 days.) Two weeks into her presidency, the Montana State Library Commission voted to leave the ALA because of her comment.

"It's been a wild ride," Drabinski says. "I mean, I knew there would be some backlash about me. But we're just going to keep going. Libraries are in the crosshairs right now in ways I never could have anticipated. We need leadership that's loud, that can make people see that the ALA is a leader on these issues that are coming at everybody."

Drabinski references *kairos,* the ancient Greek word for time; specifically, an opportune time to do a particular thing. "This is a Kairotic moment, which requires a certain kind of action," she says. "I'm loud — I'm really loud. So I'm hoping to just be really fucking loud for a year."

and tango makes three
by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
illustrated by Henry Cole
The Bluest Eye
A novel by
Toni Morrison
GENDER QUEER
the perks of being a wallflower
ANGIE THOMAS
THE HATE U GIVE
NATIONAL BOOK AWARD LONGLIST

The number of demands to censor library books (such as *And Tango Makes Three*) peaked in 2022, according to the American Library Association.

Drabinski is from Boise; she never learned to drive, so she applied to colleges in cities with good public transportation. She was a recipient of the Gideon Oppenheimer ['47, LAW'49] Scholarship Trust, for students from Idaho; coincidentally, her identical twin, Kate Drabinski BC'97, also landed at Columbia.

Though she majored in political science, Drabinski dreamed of becoming a writer (she credits Logic & Rhetoric for honing her skills). After graduation, she became a fact checker at *Lucky*, the now-defunct shopping magazine. "I was in the doghouse for a week because I listed the wrong phone number for a department store; I thought, 'I can't live my life this way,'" Drabinski says.

She got a job at the New York Public Library, which came with an opportunity to supplement her education in library science; she earned a master's in library and information science from Syracuse in 2003, and a second master's in composition and rhetoric from Long Island University in 2011 ("a degree for people who teach writing," she explains).

Drabinski was coordinator of library instruction at LIU for seven years before becoming a critical pedagogy librarian at CUNY's Graduate Center in 2019. "Critical pedagogy is about teaching students how to determine what types of knowledge and information are worth engaging with, while teaching them to use them well enough to pass their classes. That's what librarians do — we teach people how to use systems."

> "The people who are fighting back against book banning every day are the people who work at the library."

She is understandably passionate about the role libraries play in society. "Librarians select and acquire knowledge on behalf of our communities, and we facilitate equitable access to those resources," Drabinski says. "It's a big job. And I think it's really important."

No doubt most people would agree; pre-internet, the local public library was often the only game in town for research and reading material. Libraries still provide that vital service, along with access to computers, bathrooms, a drink of water and children's story hours ("Imagine if you had to buy every single picture book that you wanted your kid to read!" Drabinski exclaims). And so it's distressing that these generally benevolent spaces have become subject to witch hunts and harassment. In Drabinski's home state, legislators passed a bill that would allow anyone in the community to sue a librarian for $2,500 if they felt the librarian had circulated inappropriate materials (Idaho's governor vetoed the bill; an attempt to overturn the veto failed by a single vote).

"I'm an Idahoan through and through," Drabinski says. "People there deserve to read; they deserve to be able to go into the library and see some book about themselves. Everybody does."

The good news is, the majority of Americans aren't down for this. The ALA reports that 71 percent of voters oppose efforts to have books removed from their local public libraries, including a majority of Democrats (75 percent), Republicans (70 percent) and Independents (58 percent). President Barack Obama '83 recently lent his support, sending an open letter to the ALA in July that condemns "profoundly misguided" right-wing efforts to ban books in public school libraries.

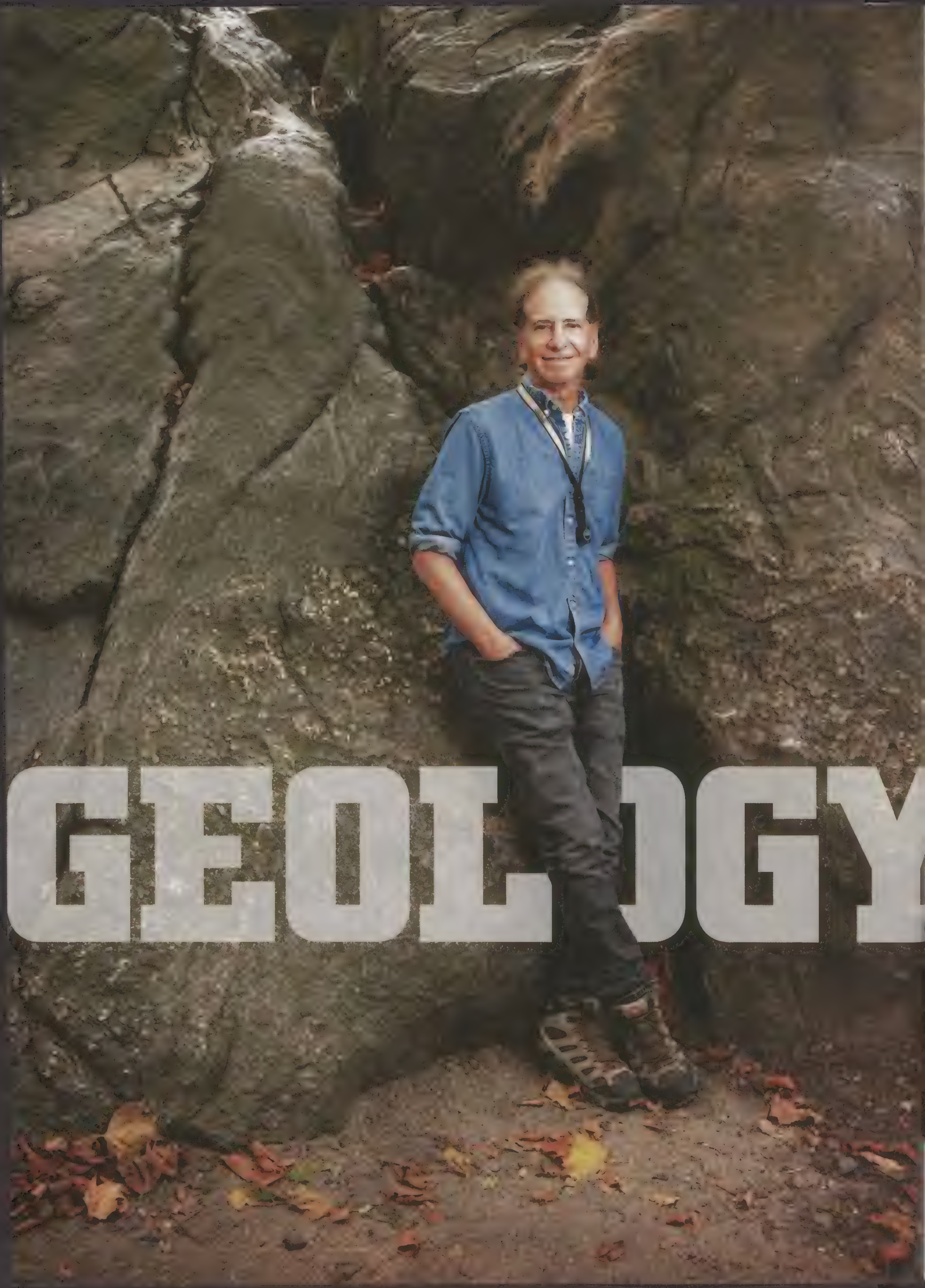
This year's Banned Books Week, the ALA's celebration of the freedom to read, is October 1–7. The annual event draws attention to current and historical attempts at censorship in libraries and schools, and brings the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers and readers of all kinds — together in solidarity.

Still, the battle rages on. Drabinski has spent much of the past year traveling around the country, talking to librarians about their challenges and promoting the great work they're doing. She recently returned from Marion, Iowa, where she met a librarian who had started his job just three days before a deadly derecho hit the state.

"The town was completely flattened, and this guy steps in and sets up a computer lab in the park, running off a generator, to help people connect to their insurance plans and get other information they needed," Drabinski says. "I'm trying to gather as many of these stories as I can so that people understand the roles that libraries play in their own communities." At the end of her term next June, she hopes to drive a pro-library tour bus from Rhode Island to the ALA Annual Conference in San Diego.

Drabinski expects the book banning issue will intensify in the run-up to next year's presidential election, and she says she is more than ready for the fight. "The right really wants to attack libraries for their so-called 'corrupting influences,' and they're trying to make libraries about me, specifically," she says. "The right-wing press thinks I'm terrible, they've attacked me for being queer — but I'm not the first and I won't be the last. I've been pilloried in public from my time in unions. I've had cancer." Drabinski shakes her head.

"They're not going to kill me. I'm really kind of bulletproof."



GEOLOGY

A Central Park field trip with Professor Steven L. Goldstein ’76

ROCKS!

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN’09 | Photographs by Jörg Meyer

Professor Steven L. Goldstein ’76, GSAS’86 started our first Zoom call with a simple question: “How much do you know about geology?”

When I responded that I only knew the barest basics and gave him a weak description of plate tectonics, he was prepared. A quick screenshare later, I was getting a crash course from Goldstein’s class (which he co-teaches with Professor Sidney Hemming) “Earth’s Environmental Systems: The Solid Earth,” flying through a billion years of Earth’s history in 30 minutes. For the uninitiated:

- **~1.3–0.9 BILLION YEARS AGO**: Rodinia, an ancient supercontinent, covers much of Earth.
- **640 MILLION YEARS AGO**: The Iapetus Ocean opens up near Rodinia’s proto-North America landmass.
- **500–440 MILLION YEARS AGO**: The Iapetus Ocean closes and a large volcanic landmass collides with what is now the Eastern coast of North America.
- **~330–260 MILLION YEARS AGO**: The Pangea supercontinent is assembled.
- **200 MILLION YEARS AGO**: Pangea begins to break up.
- **180 MILLION YEARS AGO**: The Atlantic Ocean begins to form.
- **160 MILLION YEARS AGO**: Africa drifts away from North America.
- **20,000 YEARS AGO**: Northern North America is covered by a glacier during the last Ice Age.

And then we come to the present, a beautiful August day in New York City. Goldstein and I met in person a few days after our call to take a field trip to Central Park, where this billion years of movement, creation and destruction is on full display, if only you know where to look. And Goldstein, the Higgins Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, knows *exactly* where to look.

Raised in Maryland, Goldstein describes himself as “a totally accidental Columbia student”; he transferred to the College in his junior year, looking for the perfect blend of a strong science department and good general studies. After a brief stint at Harvard to earn an M.A., he returned to Columbia to earn an M.Phil. and a Ph.D., and, after a decade at the Max-Planck-Institut für Chemie in Germany, joined the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in 1996. On August 1, the longtime Columbian added another feather to his cap: He began as interim director of LDEO, the scientific research center of the Columbia Climate School.

In a message to the LDEO community announcing Goldstein’s appointment, interim dean Jeff Shaman spoke to Goldstein’s unique qualifications, including his deep background in research — he has published more than 170 peer-reviewed papers — and awards celebrating “his outstanding contributions to the fields of volcanology, geochemistry and petrology.” Goldstein’s popular teaching methods were also noted: “ … he has been recognized for excellence in teaching across Columbia and received the 2022 Great Teacher Award from the Society of Columbia Graduates,” Shaman wrote.

“What I really like to do is go out in the field, look at the rocks and learn about the rocks,” says Goldstein. I asked him to take me on one of the same excursions he leads for students, to showcase the geological history that can be found right in New Yorkers’ backyard.

To kick things off, it’s important to know that Central Park is full of schist — “Manhattan Schist” to be exact, a type of rock made of metamorphosed sand, silt and mud. The Manhattan Schist was formed roughly 500–440 million years ago from sediment dumped in the Iapetus Ocean. You also need to know that the Hudson River is technically a fjord, carved by a glacier during the last Ice Age.

Armed with my newfound geologic knowledge and Goldstein’s decades of expertise, we headed into the park. “It’s going to be like riding a bike,” says Goldstein, adding that once you know the secret history hiding in the rocks, “you’re going to see it everywhere.”

FIELD TRIP: STOP 1

SEDIMENTARY BEDDING AND CONTINENTAL COLLISION, MAGMATIC DIKES AND GLACIAL STRIATIONS

Standing on Umpire Rock, a short walk from the park's Columbus Circle entrance, you can see evidence of sedimentary bedding in the rocks' lines. The sedimentation was cyclical, with coarse, sandy layers alternating with fine clay layers, slowly eroding over millions of years into the Iapetus Ocean.

Goldstein: *"The way erosion works is that when it rains, it erodes stuff that's above the ocean and deposits it into the ocean. That's how the Manhattan Schist formed. When you deposit stuff into the ocean, it settles down in flat, horizontal layers below the water line."*

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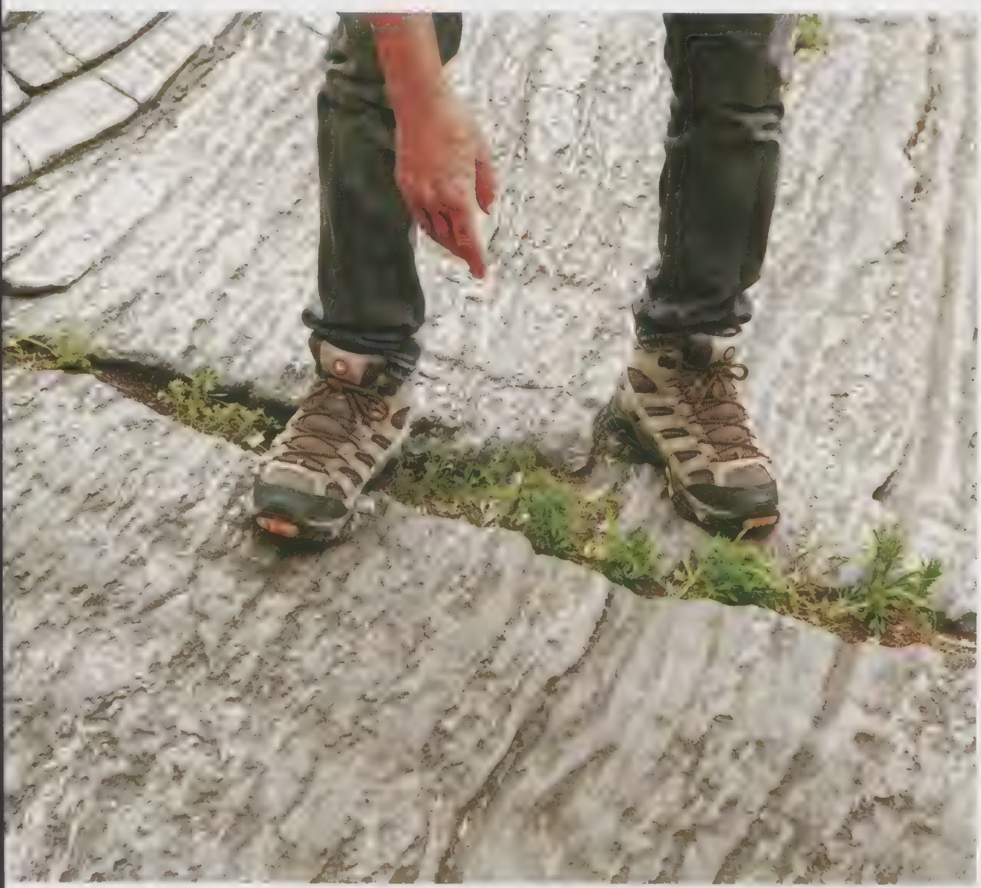

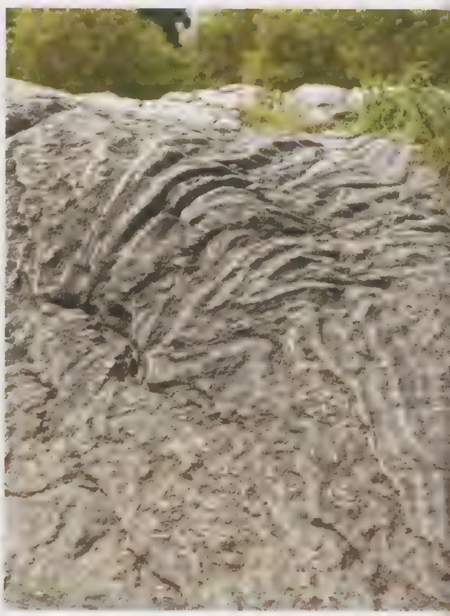

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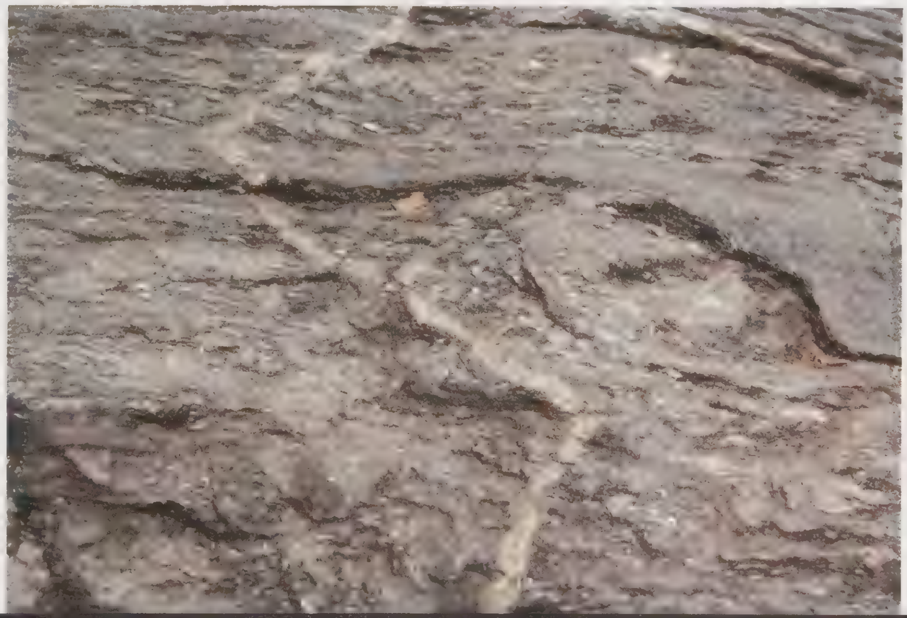
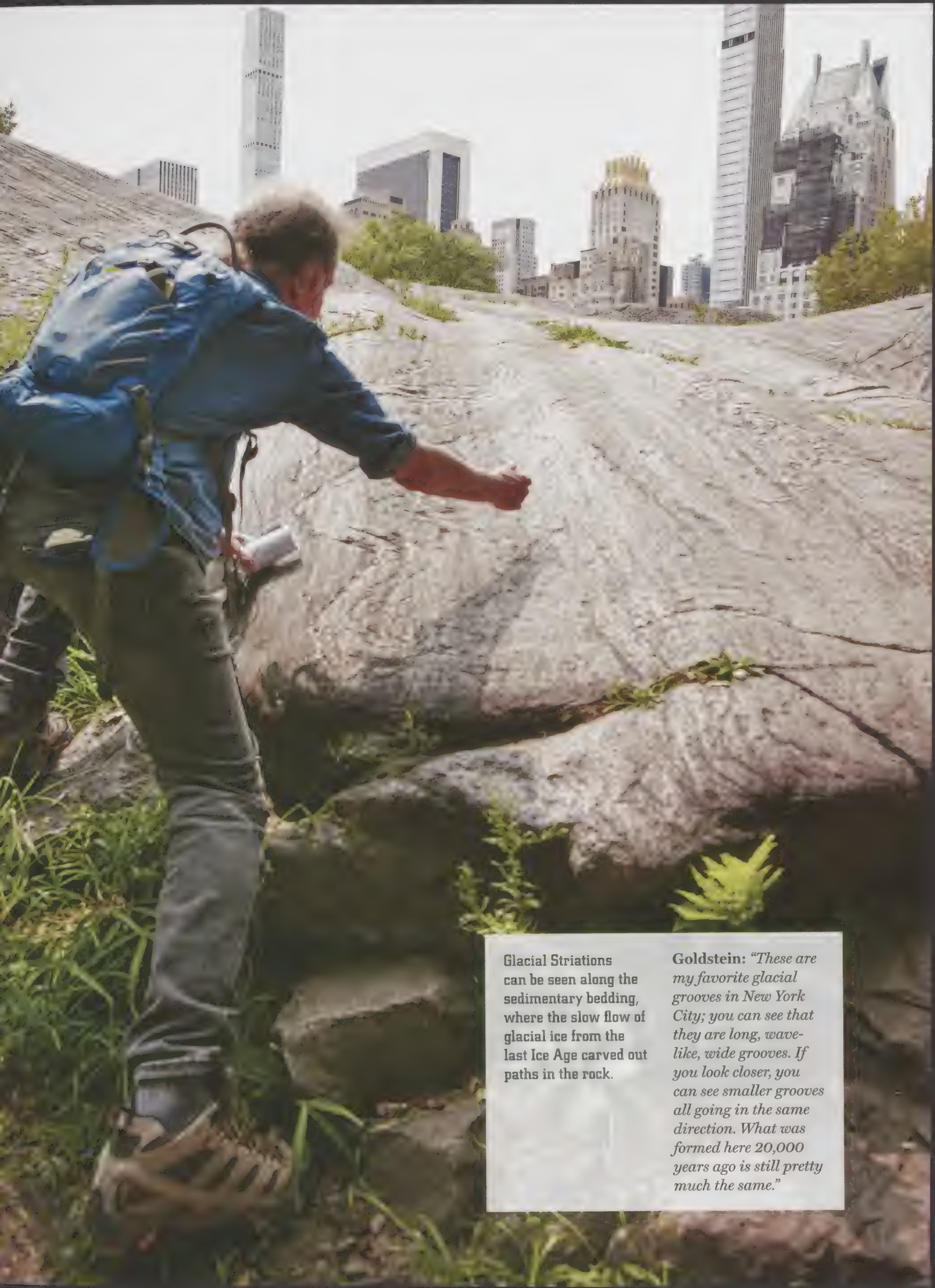
Goldstein: *"These rocks were just happily sitting beneath the ocean in flat, horizontal sheets — like a piece of paper — and then the ocean closed about 450–500 million years ago and a continent roughly the size of present-day Japan slammed into North America. It buried those sediments. Imagine what would happen if a continent slammed into something; it would mangle things. So here we see evidence of both events: the deposition of these rocks as flat sedimentary rocks, and folding of the sedimentary layers from the continental collision."*

After the soft sediments were deeply buried, heated and baked into hard rock, molten rock (magma) cut dikes (sheets of rock that cut across older rock beds) in the rock. You can see the lines of the lighter-colored magma cutting across the sedimentary bedding.

Goldstein: *"This line is actually coming from a magma that formed below, came up through here and went right across it after the entire area got folded up [in the continental collision]. You can follow it as it goes right across the layers."*



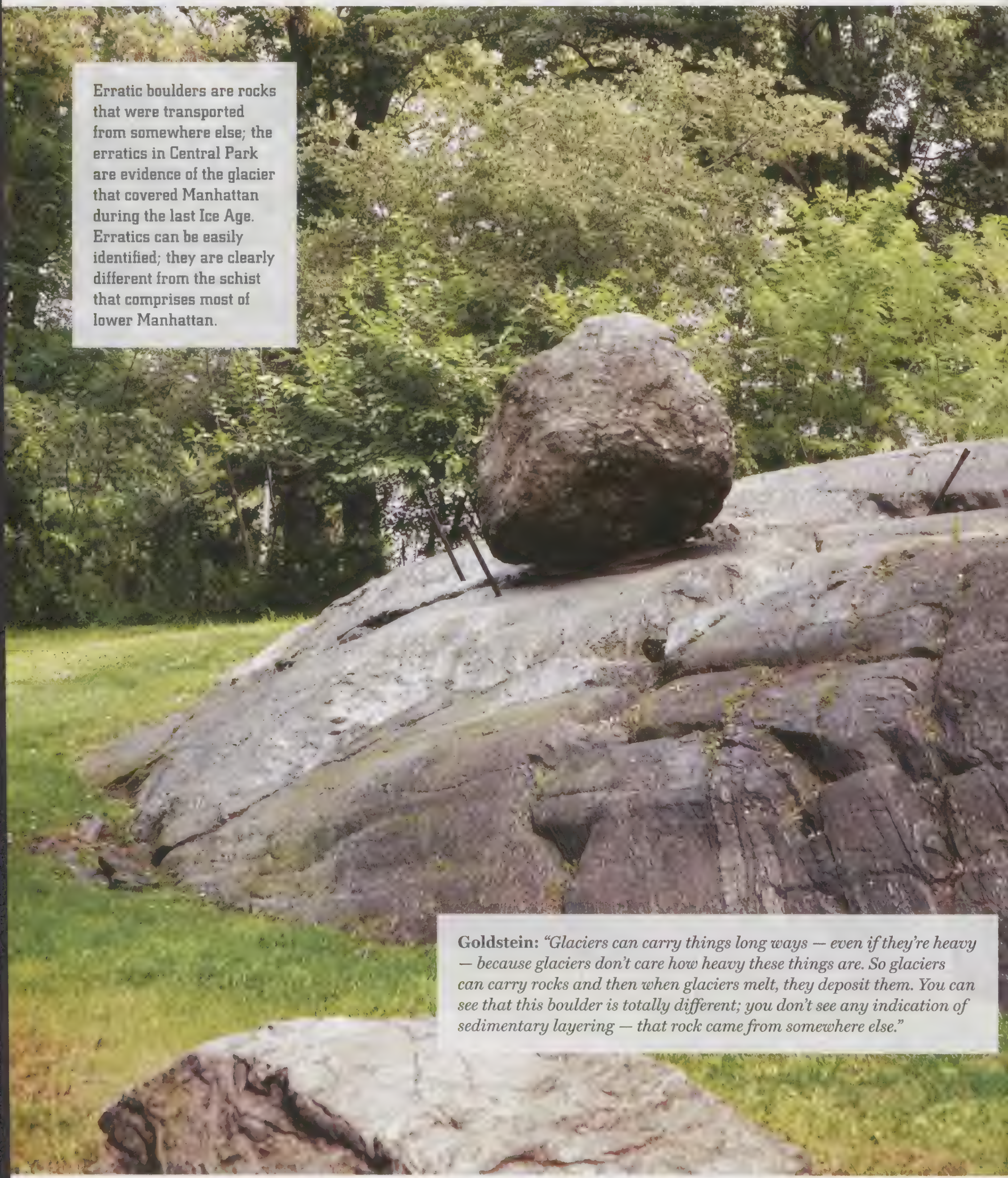


Glacial Striations can be seen along the sedimentary bedding, where the slow flow of glacial ice from the last Ice Age carved out paths in the rock.

Goldstein: *"These are my favorite glacial grooves in New York City; you can see that they are long, wave-like, wide grooves. If you look closer, you can see smaller grooves all going in the same direction. What was formed here 20,000 years ago is still pretty much the same."*

FIELD TRIP: STOP 2

ERRATIC BOULDERS



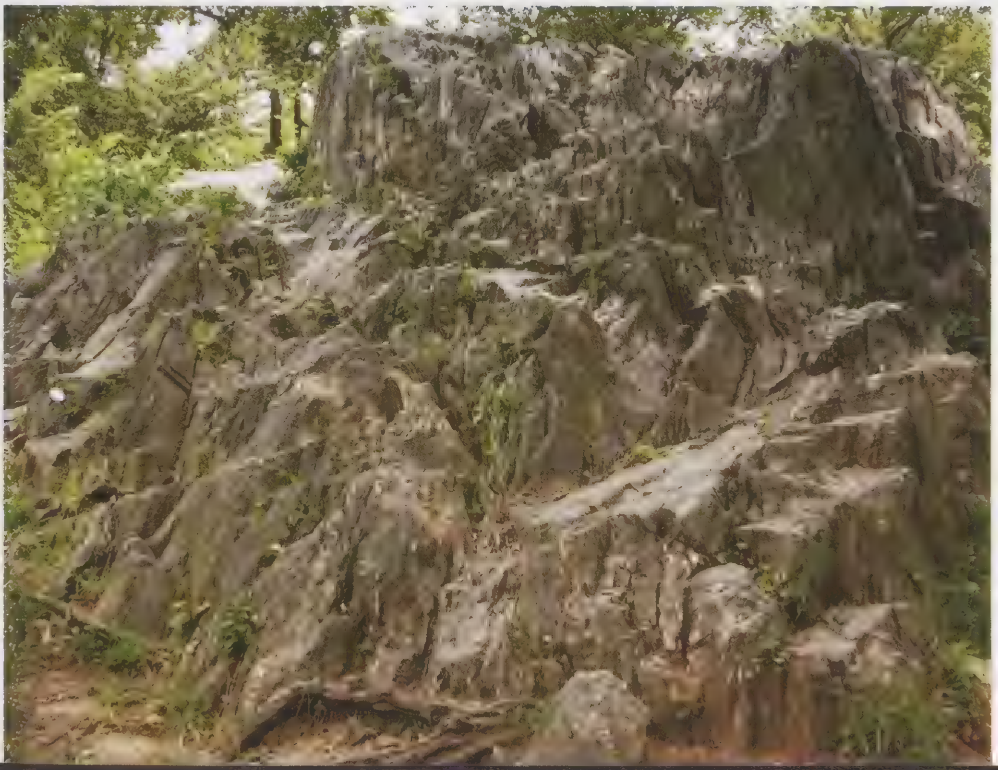
Erratic boulders are rocks that were transported from somewhere else; the erratics in Central Park are evidence of the glacier that covered Manhattan during the last Ice Age. Erratics can be easily identified; they are clearly different from the schist that comprises most of lower Manhattan.

Goldstein: *"Glaciers can carry things long ways — even if they're heavy — because glaciers don't care how heavy these things are. So glaciers can carry rocks and then when glaciers melt, they deposit them. You can see that this boulder is totally different; you don't see any indication of sedimentary layering — that rock came from somewhere else."*

ROCHE MOUTONÉE AND PLUCKING

A Roche Moutonée is a geological feature formed by glaciers moving over rocks, characterized by a smooth, shallow sloping backside and a steep drop-off.

Goldstein: *"This is a small example of this glacial feature that we can see in lots of different places, like Camel's Hump in Vermont or Lembert Dome in Yosemite National Park. The shape of it slopes gradually upward, in the direction of glacial movement, and then falls into a cliff."*



A Roche Moutonée is also defined by its craggy frontside and "plucking" — pieces of rock ripped off the stone.

Goldstein: *"During the Ice Age, the glacier was moving right across this rock going over our heads; there was a downslope here and the bottom of the glacier was actually water. When the pressure decreased because there was more space from the downslope, the water turned into ice, then the ice filled these crevices and expanded in the cracks. As the glacier continued moving forward, it plucked the rocks off."*

alumni news

Contents

36 CCAA Message

37 Bookshelf

38 Lions

Jessica Chi ’15, BUS’21;
Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn ’58, VPS’62;
Linda Appel Lipsius ’93;
Ravi Iyer ’96

40 Class Notes

Just Married!

79 Obituaries

80 Read It Online

Nusrat Choudhury ’98 is the first Muslim woman to be appointed to a federal judgeship.

THE MANE ATTRACTION

Sculptor Greg Wyatt ’71 hid a small mouse within the locks of his bronze *Scholar’s Lion,* an allusion to Aesop’s fable and the self-growth that happens through education.

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

For the Love of Reunion

By Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

What is your favorite part of a Columbia reunion? I live in Boston, so every year I attend, I am drawn by the chance to reconnect with classmates and see the bright lights of New York City.

This year, a highlight for me was experiencing a newer tradition — the all-class event at Chelsea Piers. It was wonderful to celebrate with my husband, Doug Wolf '88, and 1,200 fellow alumni from the Classes of 1958 to 2022. I met newly minted graduates, danced to music from all decades and made new memories with longtime friends.

In the bigger picture, reunion is a time to focus on all that we learned and loved during a transformational period in our lives. You can revisit old neighborhood haunts, hear fascinating lectures and see all that has physically changed on campus (as well as all that has remained the same). It's also a chance to inspire and be inspired by classmates through simple, casual conversation — best enjoyed with some fries with gravy or a slice from your favorite pizza place. There is something for everyone, and plenty of nostalgia to go around!

I am not alone in my love of reunion. Here, three alums who were on their Reunion Committees share what they love about planning and attending this special event. Next year's reunion will be Thursday, May 30–Saturday, June 1. Find out more at college.columbia.edu/alumni.

RICK NARDIS '98
Oddly enough, my favorite moment was pulling up to 117th and Broadway and finding a parking spot immediately, as that never happened when I was an undergrad commuting from Yonkers. Since I didn't live on campus, I spent a lot of time in the libraries and on the Steps. Walking the campus again as if time had not passed was definitely an emotional moment.

This last reunion wasn't the first time I was involved. The team effort of planning reunion — which itself helped me reconnect with classmates and meet new people — was very rewarding. Still hard to believe 25 years have passed. I'm eager to see where everyone is in another 25!

KAREN LOPEZ '18
Our Saturday class dinner is my favorite memory. I enjoyed reconnecting with classmates I hadn't seen since graduation, and especially hearing about the different paths they've taken. Some are married, some have made career pivots, others are starting companies and some are going to or were finishing grad school. While our paths might differ, I loved that I could have optimism for our future.

It was also my first time seeing so many classmates in one place since graduation. I could sense there was an appreciation for the Columbia community. At one point in the night, I had a moment when I looked up at the "Welcome Back Alumni" projection lit up on Low and felt immense pride to be surrounded by so many wonderful individuals.

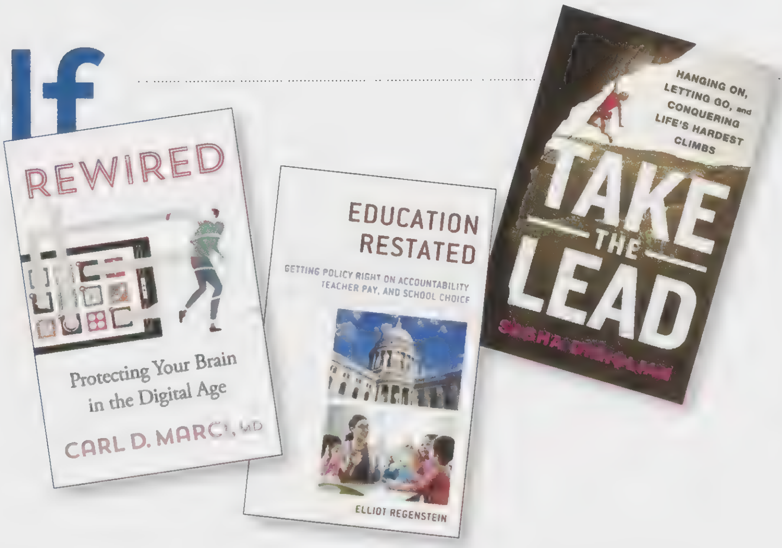
I have always been vocal about Columbia being a transformative experience for me. It was during my time on campus that I discovered I enjoy fostering a sense of community in the different groups I'm a part of. I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to do that for our five-year reunion. I look forward to continuing to be an active alum!

JOSÉ RICARDO MORENO '13
My favorite memory was moderating the "LGBTQ+ Activism at Columbia in the Early '80s" panel, featuring Dante Alencastre '83, Carl Birman '83 and Brad Gooch '73. At the center of these stories are kids coming to Columbia, trying to find themselves in an ever-changing world.

I was deeply moved by the memories the panel shared of the joyful, spicy moments of the early '70s, how they continue to honor their friends lost at the height of the AIDS epidemic in the '80s and their commitment to live vibrant, queer lives in the present. I can say without a doubt that I would not be the man I am today without their bravery and the work they put into making Columbia a more welcoming place for queer students.

Behind the scenes, we were focused on creating moments where alums could not only step back into a nostalgic late night at Columbia but also highlight how much growth there has been since graduation. Our class bar crawl went to Mel's, The Heights and 1020. I was surprised by how many of us reverted to our younger selves and how quickly friendships picked up after 10 years. The most rewarding part was what I didn't expect — how many new friends I'd make along the way.

*book***shelf**


REWIRED
Protecting Your Brain in the Digital Age
CARL D. MARCI, MD
EDUCATION RESTATED
GETTING POLICY RIGHT ON ACCOUNTABILITY, TEACHER PAY, AND SCHOOL CHOICE
ELLIOT REGENSTEIN
HANGING ON, LETTING GO, and CONQUERING LIFE'S HARDEST CLIMBS
TAKE THE LEAD
SASHA DIGIULIAN

Get the Damn Story: Homer Bigart and the Great Age of American Newspapers *by Thomas W. Lippman '61.* This comprehensive biography of an influential journalist demonstrates the value of a free press to a democratic society (Georgetown University Press, $29.95).

Dot *by Ron Padgett '64.* Padgett's latest collection of poetry illuminates how wonders can be found even in mundane experiences and unremarkable objects (Coffee House Press, $16.95).

The Kafka Studies Department *by Francis Levy '69.* Inspired by Franz Kafka, this set of interconnected short stories is infused with dark humor and insight about the human condition (Heliotrope Books, $18.50).

Save Me a Seat!: A Life with Movies *by Rick Winston '69.* Film lover Winston details the challenging but rewarding work of creating one of Vermont's leading cultural institutions, the Savoy Theater in Montpelier (Rookstock Publishing, $18.00).

Building a Unified American Health Care System: A Blueprint for Comprehensive Reform *by Dr. Gilead Lancaster '79.* Lancaster proposes a system run by healthcare professionals that would offer universal coverage and access (Johns Hopkins University Press, $39.95).

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

The Room at the End of the Universe: True Stories About the Struggle Against Brain Disease *by Dr. Anthony Adamo '82.* Through the stories of patients struggling with life-threatening neurological diseases, neurologist Adamo conveys the lessons that can be learned from adversity (Outskirts Press, $21.95).

Rewired: Protecting Your Brain in the Digital Age *by Dr. Carl D. Marci '91.* Marci, a psychiatrist and neuroscientist, reviews the mounting evidence that overuse of smart phones and social media is rewiring our brains (Harvard University Press, $27.95).

Petrushka *by Keith O'Shaughnessy '94.* In these absurdist poems and fables, characters toil under the glare of a violently subversive Petrushka puppet in a quasi-Russian dreamscape (Ragged Sky Press, $20).

Education Restated: Getting Policy Right on Accountability, Teacher Pay, and School Choice *by Elliot Regenstein '94.* In his first book, Regenstein, a partner at the law firm Foresight Law + Policy, offers a pragmatic approach to education policy change in three hot-button areas (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, $38.95).

Dear Chrysanthemums: A Novel in Stories *by Fiona Sze-Lorrain '03.* The debut novel from poet and translator Sze-Lorrain features Asian women reckoning with the past, violence, trauma and exile (Scibner, $18).

A Sweet Lowcountry Proposal: A Novel *by Preslaysa Williams '03.* In this Charleston-based romance, the second in Williams' Lowcountry series, a wedding dress designer finds love with the archivist of a Black history museum (Avon, $16.99).

My Flawless Life *by Yvonne Woon '06.* Woon's YA thriller is set at an elite private school in Washington, D.C., where a "fixer" named Hana makes her classmates' secret problems go away (Katherine Tegan Books, $19.99).

Running While Black: Finding Freedom in a Sport That Wasn't Built for Us *by Alison Mariella Désir '07.* Désir, an athlete and activist, draws on her experience to explore why the sport of long-distance running has never been truly open to Black people (Portfolio, $27).

The Jockey & Her Horse: Inspired by the True Story of the First Black Female Jockey, Cheryl White *by Sarah Maslin Nir '08 and Raymond White Jr.* Pulitzer Prize-nominee Nir's children's story about White and her horse, Jetolaro, is the second in the Once Upon a Horse series (Harry N. Abrams, $16.99).

This Won't Help: Modest Proposals for a More Enjoyable Apocalypse *by Eli Grober '12.* A collection of satirical essays about the chaos of our times from Grober, a *New Yorker* and *McSweeney's* regular (The Experiment, $25.95).

Take the Lead: Hanging On, Letting Go, and Conquering Life's Hardest Climbs *by Sasha DiGiulian '16.* World champion climber DiGiulian tells her story and shares the power of perseverance and positivity (St. Martin's Press, $29).

— Jill C. Shomer

lions

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

Jessica Chi '15

“I believe beauty is one of our greatest tools for self-expression; it gives people a sense of power over how they present themselves to the world,” says **Jessica Chi '15, BUS'21**, global marketing director of singer Rihanna's Fenty Skin. “I think I've always loved working in the beauty industry for that grander reason.”

And the beauty industry loves her back. In 2022, Chi landed on *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 list in the Marketing & Advertising category for her creative work promoting Fenty Skin. Before starting her current role, Chi had spent nearly five years with L'Oréal's marketing department and interned with L'Oréal while a student.

Fenty Beauty — Rihanna's first foray into cosmetics — launched in 2017 and immediately made waves with its mission to meet the needs of a diverse array of skin types and tones (its groundbreaking foundation is currently available in 50-plus skin tones). Following the beauty line's success, Fenty Skin launched in 2020 to focus on skincare; Chi joined the brand early the following year. Says Chi, “Fenty Skin in particular is dedicated to providing skincare for all, so it has always felt like a perfect match with my personal mission to work with a brand that represents my values.”

Managing a global powerhouse keeps Chi busy; she leads the creation and execution of global marketing strategies and campaigns, spending her days coordinating product launches and collaborating with departments across the brand. Under Chi, the brand's popularity has continued to skyrocket; she headed up the marketing for the August 2021 debut of Fenty's Eau de Parfum, which sold out twice in its first year.

Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn '58

In 1964, Dr. **Norbert Hirschhorn '58, VPS'62** joined the United States Public Health Service and was assigned to what is now Bangladesh. While there, he treated cholera and other diarrheal diseases, which left his patients with critical levels of dehydration. Facing a shortage of intravenous fluid salts, at the time the standard treatment for dehydration, Hirschhorn gave patients water with added glucose and salts to quickly rehydrate them. This revolutionary process was not only fast acting but also widely accessible.

As a pioneer of oral rehydration therapy, Hirschhorn went on to work around the world in areas facing health challenges, including Arizona's White River Apache Indian Reservation, Egypt and Indonesia.

Since then, Hirschhorn's therapy is estimated to have saved more than 50 million lives. Among his many accolades, he was recognized by President Clinton as an American Health Hero in 1993 and was presented the Michael Pupin Medal for service to the nation in science, technology or engineering earlier this year by the University.

Hirschhorn is also a prolific writer of poetry and essays; his most recent book of poetry, *Over the Edge*, was released in June.

“One of my favorite stories is from going back to Egypt some 20 years after I'd finished up there,” he recounts. “I was sitting in a taxi talking to the driver and I asked him, ‘Do you remember the programs advertised on television and radio, the program for rehydration?’ He said, ‘Oh yes, it saved my little boy!’ I asked, ‘Where's your little boy now?’ And he's studying computer technology in Florida. That's the thing about international development — you realize that the good you do may come long after.”

Linda Appel Lipsius '93

Linda Appel Lipsius '93 wants people to get dirty. As CEO of Denver Urban Gardens, the largest independent community garden organization in the country, she helps ensure that thousands of Coloradans have access to green space to grow their own fresh, organic produce in a hyperlocal food system.

Spanning six counties and comprising 193 community gardens (and roughly 17,500 gardeners) DUG is all about individuality. Gardeners can plant whatever they want, from tomatoes to tomatillos, beets to bok choy. "We're not prescriptive about what the garden needs to look like," says Appel Lipsius, "so in every garden the personality of the gardeners comes through."

Appel Lipsius joined DUG in October 2020 as interim CEO and stepped into the position permanently in January 2021. Going forward, she wants to continue DUG's mission of regenerating urban green spaces and providing resources for people to grow healthy food in their communities. She also has big plans for ongoing growth: planting community orchards that will increase Denver's tree canopy; building better composting initiatives across the city; and creating a resource and support network that can help smaller community gardens across the country succeed the way DUG has.

"Gardening has a transformational power — not just physical benefits, but also emotional," says Appel Lipsius. "There is a direct line between community gardening and mitigating depression, anxiety and isolation. It's a simple way to activate people around food, community and climate."

Illustrations by Alyssa Carvara

Ravi Iyer '96

As the managing director of the Psychology of Technology Institute (PTI) at USC's Marshall School of Business' Neely Center for Ethical Leadership and Decision Making, **Ravi Iyer '96** is trying to improve technology's impact on society.

With a Ph.D. in social psychology from USC — in addition to his double major in political science and computer science from the College — Iyer is uniquely equipped to tackle difficult questions around technology and psychology. He is now using that expertise to try to create better tech solutions for how social media platforms approach divisive content.

Prior to his current position, Iyer spent four and a half years at Meta (formerly Facebook), where he led data science, research and product teams to improve the societal impact of algorithms on elections, polarization, hate speech, misinformation and harassment. The Sisyphean experience led to an epiphany: "I started in integrity work," he says, "effectively, what's known as content moderation. I worked on things like clickbait engagement, misinformation and hate speech.

"I realized I could remove all the hate speech in the world and not actually remove the divisiveness," Iyer says. "You can remove the misinformation, but there are a lot of ways that people mislead without actually lying to you. And so I realized that content moderation was never going to be a scalable solution to those problems."

That realization led him to advocate for design-based solutions, using technology to shape how users interact with and respond to content. In his role at PTI, which he began in October, Iyer crafts suggestions for making social media more effective and practical, aiming to create approaches to technology design that improve users' online experiences and their overall well-being.

*class*notes

EILEEN BARROSO

Student volunteers from NSOP jumped at the chance to welcome the Class of 2027 and their families to campus on Move-In Day, August 27.

1945–52

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. David Ross '80 sent a note about the passing of his father, Dr. **Lawrence S. Ross '45,** VPS'51: "Shortly after his note in the Winter/Spring 2023 issue of *CCT,* we lost our dad and grandfather, just short of his 96th birthday.

"A brilliant youth (graduated from Columbia College at 18; won a ton of fine art awards as a teen), a responsible young man (served our country for two years in immediate post-war SCAP Japan as a reporter), an empathic physician (graduated from VP&S at 24 and Cornell-NYH pediatrics residency by 28; privately practiced pediatrics for 15 years in his two burgeoning offices on Long Island, having made hundreds of house calls before doctors stopped doing that; was president of the Suffolk Pediatric Society; then shifted into radiology after another Cornell-NYH Residency; practiced that for 30 years on Long Island and in rural Florida, and retired at 74); a devoted husband (to stunning Marilyn, for 50 years; they traveled the world before her untimely death due to cancer, and he tenderly cared for her at home until her last breath); an accomplished artist (sold dozens of his sculptures and paintings; gave dozens more away; drew hundreds upon hundreds of pencil and pen sketches of colleagues during his first 85 years; sculpted and painted friends and family many times over; exhibited in the Met twice, among dozens of other group and solo shows, and galleries, in New York and Florida); and caring father and grandfather (we have an endless number of character gifts for which to thank him!), he will be sorely missed.

"Larry was quite proud of his Columbia legacy — the books, the stories, the opportunities and the activities. Of this he spoke in his Class Note in *CCT.* Grandson Ben Ross '26 recently discovered this year's *Guide to the Libraries* brochure sitting buried among Lit Hum tomes on his desk. He showed us, on the inside right triptych panel, a photo of an old *Jester* cover. 'Look closely,' he said, excitedly. There was grandfather Larry's usual artistic signature, 'L.Ross,' as always in the righthand lower corner (this time, of the statue). A quick online search revealed that his artwork also sits prominently on the Columbia University Archives *Alma Mater* webpages in the Bibliography section, as the ‘two-toned color cover of *Jester*, 1945, Volume VLIII, no. 4. depicting *Alma Mater* as a servicewoman.’ To be found in the Columbia University Archives Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

“Ben quipped, ‘We lost grandpa, but his artwork is forever right alongside cuneiform tablets in the archive!’

“Though we hoped he’d live another four years so he could, as he said, tell his mother in heaven, who would always ask when he brought home his 98s and 99s, ‘Why couldn’t you get a 100?’ that he finally had! such was not the case. Mentally intact until the very end, he died prematurely at 95, having outlived all his peer friends and family.

“Among his many legacies, we are gratefully imbued with Columbian history, and with glasses high say: ‘This is today! Long may Columbia stand!’

“Love you and miss you, Larry!

“RIP.

“תמא ןייד ךורב

“David W. Ross ’80, Benjamin M. Ross ’26 and Audrey M. Ross ’27.”

CCT has also learned that **Howard N. Beldock ’49,** LAW’53, an attorney and mediator-arbitrator, died in Litchfield Conn., on June 1, 2023; **Willard B. Brown Jr. ’49,** a businessman who lived in Brewster, Mass., died on June 20, 2023; and **William J. Lubic ’49,** an attorney who lived in Red Bank, N.J., died on July 18, 2023.

Arthur L. Thomas ’50, of Greenwich, Conn., writes, “In early June 1947, the Columbia crew invited me to the Krum Elbow boathouse as a spare oarsman. Because of illness and injuries to other oarsmen in the ensuing days at the facility, I rowed bow on the JV crew as a participant in the three-mile JV race at Poughkeepsie in the first Poughkeepsie Regatta since WWII, on June 21, 1947. On June 5, 1947, Gen. George C. Marshall announced his plan for the economic recovery of Europe.”

Claudewell Thomas ’52, of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., received his second Distinguished Psychiatric Alumnus Award from the Yale Department of Psychiatry, on May 22. His first was in 1997.

Robert A. Gottlieb ’52, a renowned book editor and a balletomane who lived in New York City, died on June 14, 2023. Please go to “Obituaries,” online at college.columbia.edu/cct, to read more.

Please reach out to us with your news, updates and/or College memories via the email at the top of the column or through the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Wishing you a good fall season.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT online and in archives.

1953

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We heard from **Peter Fauci,** who writes: “In recent years I have responded to the invitation from the Alumni Office to participate in Class Day festivities by marching in the Alumni Parade of Classes. This follows the grand entrance of the graduates, and alumni classes march in chronological order, led by the oldest year represented. I was usually accompanied by classmate and friend from high school days, **Jay B. Kane.** Unfortunately, Jay passed away in 2021 and I did not attend that year or the next. However, as our 70th anniversary approached, I realized that there might be no one there to carry the Blue and White banner of 1953, so I half-planned to try to attend. The day dawned sunny so I grabbed my cane and drove in rush-hour traffic from Westchester to Morningside, arriving after the 8 a.m. arrival time. Cars were double parked on both sides of West 113th Street, but a legal space appeared out of nowhere, beckoning me. I rushed to the starting point but a metal gate blocked my way. A sympathetic guard cleared a path and I pushed past groups from the ’80s, ’70s and ’60s to the head of the line. A single alum stood there carrying the banner for 1954. The procession was about to begin. When a staff member heard me repeating ‘1953! 1953!’ she ran back to the starting point to retrieve the appropriate banner. Seemingly, only a few moments later, she arrived and together we lifted it and marched 1953 to the head of the parade! The graduates seemed to appreciate the significance of the 70-year difference and greeted every wave of my cane with a cheer.

“Where did those years go? I can still remember the feeling of awe upon first seeing the campus; I can recall the friends made; hear the voices of Gilbert Highet and Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920; and recall the acerbic Donald Barr ’41, GSAS’50 (a clone of his son, William Barr ’71, GSAS’79, or vice versa) — mostly happy memories despite commuting from Brooklyn for four years. After graduation, medical school, surgical training and two years as a U.S. Army surgeon in Landstuhl, Germany. After that, 50 years of surgical practice in New Rochelle and retirement in my 80s.

“I am married to Linda Kelly Fauci TC’65, and we have traveled extensively and often. I also have been a regular at Robert K. Kraft Field since my first game in 1949. That’s it in a nutshell.”

CCT has learned that **Richard D. Beckman,** an English professor who lived in Philadelphia, died on March 7, 2023. Read more in “Obituaries,” online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Thank you to Peter for reaching out! Please share your news by emailing us at the address at the top of the column, or use the online Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). We welcome your news, general thoughts and/or College memories.

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary
VPS	Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

1954

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Columbia College Today
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Fall greetings, Class of 1954!

Thank you to **Burton Cooper** for writing in! He shares, “All that talk of classmate death in the CC’54 Class Notes finally got me to write a few words about how I lived my life.

“After graduation, I spent a semester at the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of English, then went into the Army for two years with a year in Korea. After that

I worked at the NYC Department of Welfare, then studied at Union Theological Seminary, earning a Ph.D. in systematic theology in 1968. I taught in religion departments at Wooster College in Ohio and Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., then taught for 28 years at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary as professor of philosophical theology.

"I published a bunch of articles and three books. The only one that's readable is *Why, God?* I wrote it after the death of my wonderful 12-year-old child, Samuel. I have three living children and five grandchildren, and I've gotten so old I have four great-grandchildren. My wife of 66 years, Blanche Cogswell, died last July. In our long retirement years, we'd been living in an old farmhouse in the hills of east central Vermont, with 80 acres of woods and field in which to walk the dogs. If there are any CC'54ers or even CC'55ers living in the area, maybe we can meet for lunch in Hanover, N.H, and talk about how much more worrisome it is to live today than it was in 1954.

"I am forever indebted for the great education I received at Columbia. It made me a better teacher than I would have been otherwise. And I had two great teachers: Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38 at Columbia and Reinhold Niebuhr at Union. They were lifelong models for how to be a teacher and thinker, and their books informed my thought all my life."

Joel Belson GSAS'64's family sent in the following: "Joel Jay Belson GSAS''64 died on July 10, 2022, at 89. Joel graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College, where he was chancellor of his fraternity, Beta Sigma Rho. He earned his master's and Ph.D. in English. Because of his profound love of both literature and education, he pursued a career as an English professor. He spent more than four decades — 1958–99 — teaching English at SUNY Maritime College, serving as chair of the Department of Humanities there 1975–92.

"Joel was known as a dedicated teacher. When his grandson Ross Goluboff '15 began his career in college teaching, Joel's counsel to him was to do as Joel had always done, both when teaching his own children and grandchildren and when teaching his students: Inspire your students with confidence, whatever their aspirations, he told Ross. 'Raise them up.'

"As Joel loved to teach, he loved to learn — from people and experience, as well as from books. His passion for learning was truly lifelong — from his earliest days to his very last — and it was broad. He treasured reading, not just literature and about literature, but also about a great variety of disciplines. He read about history, philosophy, religion, art, music, math, science, the economy, technology. He was greatly admired for his well-informed and considered opinions — and for his willingness to change his mind.

"Joel is remembered by family, friends and colleagues not only for his keen intellect, but also for his tremendous kindness, sensitivity and fairness, and for the support and encouragement he offered other people for their projects and goals. Whether it was an interdisciplinary conference a colleague wanted to organize or the science or crafts project a family member wanted to undertake, Joel provided all the resources, assistance and time he could. He would learn new skills himself to facilitate the realization of someone else's vision — even figuring out how to construct a primitive loom to help his wife make a rug. He would read, not only with his own interests in mind, but also with the interests of others in mind. He would clip book reviews and articles for each member of his family on the particular topics that excited them most — health and plants for his wife; math, Greek and Latin, opera, theater, computers and technology for his grandchildren; law, philosophy, religion, literature, home maintenance and politics for his daughters; art, architecture, archeology and medicine for his sons-in-law. No matter the subject, if it moved someone he knew, he wanted both to help them learn more about it and to learn about it himself.

"A strong aesthetic sense accompanied Joel's powerful intelligence. He cared as much about the arrangement of foods and variety of colors on a plate as he did about the taste of the dish. A visit to magnificently curated gardens would move him no less than exquisite poetry. His own cooking — as well as the wood and tile work with which he adorned the furniture and walls of his home — all reflected his great appreciation for beauty. He added much of it to the world with his mind, hands and heart.

"Joel is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Abby Avin Belson BC'56; their daughters, Gabrielle Belson Rattner BC'80 and Nicole Belson Goluboff '87, LAW'90; their sons-in-law, Donald Rattner '79 and Erik Goluboff '86; and their grandchildren, Ross Goluboff '15, Isaac Goluboff and Remy Rattner.

"They are and will always be immeasurably grateful for all he taught them — and for his infinite kindness, most of all."

Please reach out to us with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1955

Columbia College Today
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It was wonderful to receive a few notes for this issue. Please keep it up! Please email us at the address above, or use the online Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note) to send in your news, general thoughts or College memories.

William "Bill" Kronick '55 is based in Los Angeles and is working on completing his seventh novel.

William G. Langston writes, "After more than 30 years of two months in Europe every year, my wife and I are now anchored at Long Beach, Calif., awaiting the return of our youth. Our passports are new and unstamped, alas."

William "Bill" Kronick shares, "Out here in Los Angeles all are grateful we've so far eluded the floods, fires and heatwaves that have compounded the economic inflation and political turmoil affecting all us! I'm closing in on completing my seventh novel while my son, Max, has been picketing for the last few months with fellow Writers Guild of America members. The first film I made, a 26-minute short, *A Bowl of Cherries,* played in 1,000 theaters and launched my career. It was (and is!) a romantic comedy. I try to keep its spirit in mind during my modest comings and goings!"

Warren Cohen notes, "Sorry; nothing new to report. Wait for my 90th next year."

Richard Ravitch, a powerhouse in New York politics — a "public citizen who helped rescue New York City from the brink of bankruptcy

Send Us Your News!

If you don't see a column for your class, it means we have not heard from you or your classmates. You can change that! Please share news, updates, and College memories and stories with us for inclusion in a future issue. Email us at cct@columbia.edu, or use our webforms to send in a Class Note (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note) or a photo (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). We hope to hear from you!

and its decaying subways from fiscal collapse," as noted in *The New York Times* — and a former New York State lieutenant governor, died on June 25, 2023. Please go to "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct, to read more.

1956

Robert Siroty
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Stephen Easton attended the Dean's Scholarship Reception on March 28, where he met Dean Josef Sorett, along with one of our five scholarship recipients, Jonny Gonzalez '24. In June, Stephen went on a tour of the Manhattanville campus and was particularly impressed with the new Business School building that is replacing Uris Hall, which housed his classes on the Morningside campus. Stephen lives in North Carolina and makes frequent trips to New York. He "hopes all our class members are aging gracefully."

Dan Link represented us at Class Day on May 16 (see a photo in this column online: college.columbia.edu/cct). We were the fourth-oldest participating class. By the way, Columbia Reunion is open to us every year, prior to our 70th in 2026.

H. Michael Grant, who practiced psychiatry in New York for 63 years, died on March 26, 2023. His obituary in *The New York Times* noted that he told his granddaughter "there was never a day when he was not excited to go to work." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

We note the passing of **Al Franco SEAS'56** on May 2, 2023. Al participated in many of our events, including most of the luncheons. He was a good friend, and will be sorely missed.

Please forward your news.

1957

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

"I recently realized that the informative clippings from *The Washington Post* that **Herman Levy** had reliably mailed me about various African-American matters since our 50th reunion had stopped, which I innocently attributed to his traveling, not illness or worse," Dr. **John H. Norton III** writes. "I was therefore stunned to learn in the Summer 2023 issue of his death on May 7, 2023, and mourn the loss of a friend and the end of many pleasant visits and discussions in San Francisco. Herman was considerate, thoughtful, committed to equality for all, an exceptional class correspondent and devoted to the Class of 1957."

John G. Scandalios echoes that thought: "Sorry to hear of Herman's passing. I enjoyed his concern for our class."

Eugene "Gene" Wagner writes in a poetic style,

"how sad it is as i read obituaries of
old friends who have passed
i so clearly remember each and
 every one
of them enjoying the best of
 their college
 days so many years ago"

An invitation from **Martin Brothers:** "I enjoy emails and occasional get-togethers with **Alan Brown,** and now and then with **Rabbi Alvin Kass,** and on occasion with **Sal Franchino,** and would be pleased to connect by email or in person with alumni in the NYC area, who can reach me by phone or text via my mobile number: 914-715-3367."

Karl Fleischmann writes, "By spring of senior year my roommate **Martin Cohen** and I had completed all the courses we needed to graduate. We enrolled in Dustin Rice's Friday afternoon modern art course, which offered an off-ramp from the work of the week. I learned a lot about art although as the lights went down and the slides came up, I regularly fell asleep. Rice instructed us to go to MoMA and memorize the collection. As absurd as that assignment seemed, we ultimately came to realize that memorizing a collection permits you to compare the images in your mind with other works you come upon in other museums, year after year. And too, we have the memory of Monet's *Water Lilies,* an enormous mural that was lost to a fire a few years later.

"Two years after graduation and before I had finished law school I married Muriel Rosenblum, whom I had met after junior year. We celebrated our 64th anniversary this past June. We have lived for all that time in West Hartford, Conn., and I have practiced law and been involved in business here. I am almost fully retired but still handle matters for a few clients. We have three sons and six grandchildren. Muriel and I have together been to more museums than Rice would have predicted of a somnolent student."

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada resident **Daniel Younger** SEAS'63 says, "Strains of 'Sans Souci' and 'Who Owns New York' echo through my brain as I recall Orientation at Columbia 70 years ago. These memories are stimulated by my granddaughter Scarlett, who is this fall looking forward to her own orientation to university life.

"It leads me back to my last days at Columbia, when I conceived a minimax equality, whose study would dominate the next 10 years of my life, taking me to Ontario and the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo. This past summer I was sorting through academic papers and course materials, keeping those close to my heart.

"I planned to visit New York in September, where my daughters Kirsten and Meredith live and work, one not far from Morningside. Strains of Columbiana will likely course through my head once again."

Thank you to those who wrote. Please keep the news coming! Email us at the address at the top of the column, or use the online Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note) to send in your news, general thoughts and/or College memories.

1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

Although our class had no formal activities scheduled at Columbia Reunion 2023, held June 1–3, several members did attend the festivities: **Joe Dorinson, Carl Stern, Eli Weinberg, Ira Carlin, Steve Jonas** and **Ernie Brod.**

Kudos to **Bert Hirschhorn** VPS'62! He is the recipient of the 2023 Michael Pupin Medal, conferred by the University in recognition of his "longstanding service to the nation in science, technology, or engineering." [Editor's note: Read more about Bert in this issue's "Lions" section.]

At another gathering in June, five members of AEPi fraternity (and their wives), who had been holding biweekly Zoom meetings during the pandemic, finally met in person at an Upper West Side restaurant: **Peter Barth** (Nancy), **Bob Levine** (Anne), **Walt Lipow** (Giselle), **Carl Stern** (Joy) and yours truly (Joan). **George Ehrenhaft** (Peter's friend since elementary school days in Queens) also joined the group. A good time was had by all!

An addendum to our note of praise in the Summer 2023 issue for the women's basketball team and its Ivy League championship season. The team capped off its regular season heroics with four additional post-season wins in the Women's National Invitation Tournament and advancement to the finals before a narrow defeat on the road against the University of Kansas and 10,000-plus spectators. What a season to remember, especially for those alums who attended the WNIT home games and/or watched them on television or computers. Unfortunately, the WNIT magic did not extend to the spring teams; no titles this year for tennis or baseball, so women's basketball was not only a champion but is also our only one. Now, it's on to the fall and a new season.

See you at Robert K. Kraft Field!

1959

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
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Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

I have room this issue to include the rest of **George Mann** GSAPP'62's contribution: "I am fortunate to have won numerous awards, made national and international presentations, written numerous articles, and produced and coordinated 81 videos on health facility design for PBS since 2018: go online to bit.ly/46MSTSj.

"I have taught health facility design to more than 4,500 students at Texas A&M University; as a visiting professor at Columbia 1974–76; as the Lady Davis visiting professor at the Technion, Israel Institute of Architects, in Haifa; as the first American visiting professor at the University of Tokyo, Department of Architecture, Nagoya City University; at Southeast University in Nanjing; and as a consultant to Temple University. I have been invited to present research and design projects around the world including in the United Kingdom, Holland, Stockholm, Berlin, Italy, Greece, Warsaw, Israel, Guatemala, Honduras, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Moscow, Beijing, Dalian, Manila, Hong Kong, Sydney, Perth, Tunisia and South Africa.

"In 2002 I founded Global University Programs in Healthcare Architecture with Dr. Yasushi Nagasawa of the University of Tokyo to encourage more colleges of architecture to create similar health-focused graduate programs. From 2012 to 2013 I was the elected director of the International Union of Architects — Public Health Group after being the official representative of the United States for the American Institute of Architects 2007–18.

"I am currently involved in the research and design impact of telemedicine, as this is a new frontier and will be a major driver of change in health facilities design.

"As a result of these involvements, I have stayed in touch with many of my former students, collaborating on numerous projects, and have been energized by the growing needs as well as the successes of many. Due to the lack of interest by most colleges of architecture, our unique program has grown enormously, and I cannot describe the satisfaction I have had in undertaking these projects in a context of such demand and changing needs.

Stay in Touch

Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name: **college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.**

"Wishing all CC'59 classmates and families good health and peace, and that they enjoy each day that we have left. Ever forward and onward! Best wishes to the younger generation, as they will have to do much better than us — they have more issues to deal with."

Joe Bearman writes, "After graduation I went to Europe and studied medicine at the University of Geneva. This was followed by a residency in pediatrics. I practiced in a variety of settings, including visits to Bolivia. For the last 40 years we have lived in Central New York State, currently in Fayetteville, a Syracuse suburb. The last 20 years of my career were as a founding member of Pediatric [now Child Health] Associates of Madison County in Oneida and as a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse.

"Upon leaving my office practice I attended the Pediatric Clinic and taught first-year medical students.

"While working in New Haven, I met and married Mirta Delgado, a native of Argentina. She went on to have a long career as a professor of Spanish at Colgate. We have three highly accomplished sons and five grandchildren.

"We traveled a great deal in Europe and South America but in retirement we visit family in Cordoba, Argentina, and the boys in Virginia and Washington, D.C. I remain quite active, swimming almost daily and walking, though I cannot do the ambitious hiking I used to do. I sing in a couple of large groups in the second bass section. Like so many of us, a lot of time is spent in medical offices as I realize that getting old is a bit of a contact sport."

From **Bernie Pucker** we hear, "Still here! Today, June 15, 2023, my wife, Sue, and I celebrate our 64th anniversary. Amazing grace!

"We have two grandchildren marrying in August and September.

"The gallery continues to host many amazing artists, including Saul Steinberg and Samuel Bak, and we are working on the Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center, on the campus of the University of Nebraska, Omaha, where he has donated 512 works and it has opened a Phase One space, attracting hundreds of visitors already.

"We hosted an exhibition of the Hamada family — three generations of Japanese pottery. The first-generation Shoji Hamada was designated a Living National Treasure in 1955.

"After 54 years at the gallery, it seems to get better and better!

"All the best."

Paul Kantor '59 (left) visited with Bennett Miller '59 in the Washington, D.C., area in early June.

Jerome Charyn is still active. He tells us, "My new novel, *Ravage & Son*, about a Jewish Jekyll and Hyde on Manhattan's Lower East Side at the beginning of the 20th century, was to be published in August. *A Dangerous Diva,* my novel about opera star Maria Callas, will appear in 2025. I am working on *Silver Wolves,* a novel for young adults. My reminiscence about Balanchine and the New York City Ballet appeared in *The American Scholar.*"

Paul Kantor and **Bennett Miller** write, "In early June, **Paul Kantor** and his wife, Carole, had a chance to visit with **Bennett Miller** and his wife, Pat. (See the nearby photo of Paul and Ben.) The Millers live now in a community about 30 miles south of Washington, D.C., where, as Paul will attest, the food is very good. But the conversation was even better, as we recalled our days at Columbia, and recalled brilliant classmates: **Roald Hoffmann** was probably first, and then **Uriel Nauenberg.** And also **Mike Tannenbaum** and **Norm Gelfand.**

"Ben and Paul have each had career paths that were not at all what we expected on graduation day, but they have been good to us, and we choose not to complain. We're all now at an age where, as they say, 'If you wake up and nothing hurts, you've died!' A bit more technically, we note that having exceeded life expectancy as it was in 1938, we are 'actuarially dead.' Being alive is a whole lot better."

I am sure that we all agree.

Norman Gelfand informs that his youngest son, Sammy is now an assistant coach/analytics with the Washington Wizards.

Our 65th reunion is next spring. Planning is underway, so if you have an idea or suggestion, please let me know and I will share it with the Reunion Committee. Or, contact either of the Columbia College staff offices noted at the top of the column. We should all make plans to be there.

I am sorry to inform you of the death of **Uriel Nauenberg** GSAS'63 on December 31, 2019. I only learned of his death recently. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1960

Robert Machleder
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The dominant theme of this note, all too recurrent but inescapable and quite essential, is remembrance of and reflection on our recent losses of colleagues.

Larry Rubinstein wrote, "At our class Zoom call **Irwin Sollinger**

informed us that **Bruce Ettinger** had died. He passed away in June 2020 of a heart attack in San Francisco. I believe he was Phi Beta at Columbia and went on to Harvard Medical School. He was a member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity."

Indeed, Dr. **Bruce Ettinger** passed away following a heart attack on June 15, 2020, at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center, where he had a distinguished career. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, Bruce completed his internship and residency in pediatrics at Boston City Hospital. He then saw service in the Army with a tour of duty in Japan.

Bruce arrived in his adopted hometown of San Francisco in 1968, joined the Permanente Medical Group in 1970 as a senior physician in internal medicine specializing in endocrinology and maintained his practice for more than 30 years. From 1980 to 2003, he chaired the chiefs of the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Endocrinology Group.

A dedicated and patient teacher, Bruce retired as clinical professor (emeritus) of medicine and radiology at UC San Francisco. He was remembered for his reassuring presence, good humor and accessible way of explaining complicated issues. Bruce was a beloved physician and mentor for Kaiser/UCSF residents and colleagues.

In the early '70s, Bruce chaired the patient services committee, which developed a Patients' Bill of Rights adopted by Kaiser Permanente San Francisco. Subsequently, it was the template for Kaiser's Northern and Southern California region hospitals. When he chaired the Patient Services Committee, which was started by nurses, he met Vivian, who became his wife. Bruce and Vivian worked together at Kaiser for decades.

From 1992 to 2003, Bruce was a senior investigator at Kaiser Permanente's Division of Research. He continued, after retirement, as a mentor and was an adjunct (emeritus) investigator — 50 years of service to Kaiser Permanente.

Bruce made significant contributions to research in kidney stones and in women's health, specifically around menopause, osteoporosis and fractures. He developed a web-based fracture risk calculator designed to provide fracture risk results in an understandable manner for patients.

Bill Tanenbaum advised that **Ernie Kaiman** GSAS'67 died on November 1, 2022, in Sarasota, Fla. He writes, "Ernie and I became friends in 1956 as freshmen at Columbia. Later in life, my wife, Ronna, and I used to visit Ernie and his wife in Sarasota and for special occasions they would visit us in Boca Raton. One must cherish the good times because time passes quickly."

Harvey Brookins died on November 4, 2022. His passing was brought to the attention of the class Zoom attendees by **Bill Host**, who wrote: "Sorry to miss this Zoom especially. I was traveling to Pittsburgh ahead of services for the passing of Harvey Brookins. They were held in his hometown of McDonald, Pa. He passed on November 4, peacefully, in his sleep. He was quite open about his labile diabetes and hypertension. His family was far flung and they all came to his tiny hometown rather than Detroit."

Harvey will be long remembered as captain of the varsity football team, noted for his prowess as a running back who in our final season sparked the opening game victory over Brown, carrying the ball for 124 yards with two touchdowns and a conversion, and in the last game victory over highly-favored Rutgers, carrying the ball for 125 yards and two touchdowns.

Andy Feuerstein informed me of the March 22, 2022, death of **Michael Sohn**, in Northwest Washington, D.C. They had been classmates at Harvard Law School. Andy provided the details regarding Michael's legal career.

Michael was the longtime chair of the Arnold & Porter law firm, perhaps the most prominent firm in D.C. He was a nationally recognized expert in antitrust law. In 2008, he was honored at the 30th Anniversary of *Legal Times* as one of "30 visionary business leaders who turned the Washington legal community into an international powerhouse."

He was one of our many Stuyvesant H.S. graduates and attended Harvard Law, graduating with honors.

After serving in the Air Force, Michael began his legal career at the National Labor Relations Board, where he practiced 1964–69. "I got to argue 8–10 cases a year in federal appellate courts," he recalled. "I loved it."

He then joined Arnold & Porter and made partner in 1972.

In 1977, Michael became general counsel of the Federal Trade Commission, where he was known for his vigorous efforts to keep commission investigations free from political interference. In a 1980 *Washington Post* article, Michael was described as a "Lawyer's Lawyer" who played a major role in protecting the commission's legislative mandate.

Michael returned to Arnold & Porter in 1980 and was active in law firm leadership throughout his career, chairing the antitrust practice and becoming firm chair in 1996.

Throughout this time he maintained a busy and broad-based antitrust practice in litigation, investigations and merger reviews. During Michael's tenure as chair, the firm launched a first of its kind onsite childcare center, leading *Working Mother* magazine to honor Arnold & Porter as one of the "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers," the only law firm on the list.

In 2010, Michael retired from Arnold & Porter after 41 years due to mandatory age limitations at the firm. Thereafter he joined Davis Polk & Wardwell, where he continued to practice antitrust law until the age of 77.

Vince Russo notified me of the death of **George J. Camarinos.**

"It is with a heavy heart that I must report that another classmate has passed. George died peacefully with his family in attendance on February 16, 2023. He was living in Saint Petersburg, Fla. He was a physician specializing in gastroenterology until his retirement a few years ago.

"I met George in freshman year at DeWitt Clinton H.S. in the Bronx. We were so happy to gain acceptance to our first-choice college, Columbia, as pre-meds.

"He went on to New York Medical School and a successful St. Petersburg gastroenterology practice."

George's son added some further detail regarding his father's life. "He was the first gastroenterologist to do colonoscopies in the Tampa Bay area. He practiced medicine both in New York and then in Florida. During his time at Columbia, he had a successful music career as an entertainer, where he was not only an amazing pianist, but also wrote and performed his own songs. His talent in music and performing culminated in numerous record deals with major labels, having a top 10 hit in Colorado, performing at 'hops,' as well as starring in a movie that premiered worldwide, *Girl Fever.* During his music career, he went by several different names in show business, such as George Cameron and George Camarinos III. Although he was growing in popularity in show business, he decided to give all that up to focus on his medical career but kept writing music throughout his life."

[Editor's note: Read more about some of these classmates in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1961

Michael Hausig
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Bob Pollack retired on July 1 after 45 years as a biology professor at Columbia. A celebration of his retirement was held in Faculty House on May 23.

After earning a Ph.D., Bob returned to Columbia in 1978 as a professor in the biology department. He has been dean of Columbia College, director of the Center for the Study of Science and Religion, an editor at Columbia University Press, co-chair of the Columbia Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee and a member of numerous boards and committees, and for 10 years was director of the University Seminars. During that time, Bob raised millions of dollars for the University. He was instrumental in the creation of Columbia/Barnard Hillel (The Robert K. Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life). As dean (1982–89), he pushed successfully to have women admitted to the College starting in 1983. He was a leader in bridging the gap between science and religion, and more broadly in interrogating scientific research from an ethical perspective.

Bob's research into reversion in malignant tumors in the 1980s was far ahead of its time, and has been cited recently as a practical approach to therapy. He was the first professor from the natural or physical sciences to lead the University Seminars, and has been a leader in dismantling barriers between STEM disciplines and the humanities. Along the way, he taught thousands of students, mentored hundreds of graduate students and early-career scientists, introduced service-learning programs to the College and was active in educational outreach programs for high school students interning on campus.

Carl Saviano has retired from the practice of psychiatry and is very busy. Hard to understand! He is working to get a speaker for the class discussion group and has found someone to speak about transgender issues, a complicated subject.

Don Savini SEAS'63, after 52 years, has returned to become a citizen of the Keystone State. They sold their residence in Illinois and now live on their farm in central Pennsylvania.

Tom Lippman's 10th book was published in May. *Get the Damn Story: Homer Bigart and the Great Age of American Newspapers* recounts the life and times of the greatest war correspondent of the 20th century, working first at *The New York Herald Tribune,* then at *The New York Times.* When Bigart began his journalism career in the late 1930s, New York City had more than a dozen daily newspapers. Tom saw Bigart in action when Tom was a news clerk at the *Times* right after graduation, so he put a bit of himself into the story.

David Konstan GSAS'67 returned in June from Brazil, where he spent two and a half months as a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Campinas. There, he gave a series of eight lectures on "Revenge, Retribution, and Reconciliation."

Bob Salman LAW'64 and his wife, Reva, celebrated their 60th anniversary in June. Bob continues to be an active member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, which is working on this year's election of the entire State legislature. He is also chairing a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (aka FINRA) arbitration and working on decisions for bail reform and insurance registration as a member of the New Jersey Council on Local Mandates.

Bernie Muench SEAS'62, BUS'65 spent most of his career at Ford Motor Co. as a product and business planner. He led the naming and the development of the F-150, the number 1 selling truck in America. After retiring, he formed a consulting company, Process Solutions, for project and process management and engineering analyses. For the last 15 years Bernie has followed what he expects will be a fantastic transformation as we think about and address population and resource (oil, water, clean air, land) limits and climate consequences. Bernie's comments to address the vehicular side of the fossil fuel dilemma are as follows.

"Eight billion people producing tons of emissions contribute to the unprecedented CO_2 in the atmosphere, resulting in climate chaos. So while we learn more, let's do something about it today. A small plug-in hybrid will have the largest impact in the shortest time. A PHEV will get you to Florida in the same amount of time for half the emissions and half the fuel cost that a two-and-a-half-ton SUV requires. Your weekly emissions and fuel bill should be less than half as you commute and charge overnight.

"It does not matter if you accept that fossil fuel emissions are causing weather chaos. We live in a capitalistic system that functions to align costs with causes. Substantial numbers of our decision makers have become convinced. So auto executives see an opportunity to provide their customers with alternative transportation modes not subject to the fossil-fuel monopoly. From an energy-efficiency perspective, electric fuel is two times more efficient than fossil fuel. If you were an auto executive with an opportunity to become independent of a monopolistic supplier and gain energy independence and efficiency for your customers, would you take it?"

A note on invalid email addresses: As classmates retire or change internet providers, some email addresses are no longer valid. If you have changed your email address, please alert the *CCT* office (via webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info or via email: cct@columbia.edu) and they will tell me, so I can include you on our mailing list.

1962

John Freidin
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Seven classmates responded to my query, "Should Donald Trump (a) never have been indicted and why or (b) be convicted and why." Five thought he should be convicted; one thought he should have been reprimanded, not indicted; and one thought the question had "absolutely no place in our news." I also asked for reading recommendations, which follow.

Armando Favazza writes: "As a psychiatrist I'm not supposed to diagnose anyone unless I've done a personal evaluation. I believe, however, that I've seen Donald Trump so often on television that I can reliably diagnose him. He should be indicted and sent to prison. He is a narcissistic psychopath, poor role model and disgraceful human being who cheated thousands of people and instigated the attack on our Capitol. Dante would encase him in ice in the lowest realm of hell.

"On a better note, Sicilian author Andrea Camillieri writes terrific detective novels that put me in a happy mood. Humor, good plots and mouth-watering Italian food."

Russ Warren recently stopped operating but continues to consult, train residents and do research on cartilage replacement. Looking back, he modestly writes: "Been a fun run." Russ, his wife, Laurie, their two children and eight grandchildren all live in Greenwich, Conn. Russ mentions an article in *The Wall Street Journal* by Andrew Delbanco, Columbia's Alexander Hamilton Professor of American Studies. Delbanco asserts that a core curriculum stimulates discussions that make college students better despite differences and heated argument. Amen.

One of **Bob Umans'** favorite authors is Louise Penny. She writes police procedurals that take place in a rural Quebec town. Armand Gamache, her chief inspector, advises an overeager assistant of the four statements that lead to wisdom: "'I'm sorry.' 'I was wrong.' 'I don't know.' 'I need help.'"

Charlie Nadler continues to live in the Erickson Senior Living development in Highlands Ranch, Colo., and provides pro bono legal services to his fellow residents. He has established numerous listservs to build community. (For those of you like me who aren't sure what a listserv is, it's an online discussion that facilitates email messages to and from a list of subscribers.) Charlie also teaches in his community's resident-run Learner's Club. His first effort was "What Do Lawyers Do and How Do They Do It?" His next, "What Are Conservatism and Liberalism?" will focus on Edmund Burke and John Stuart Mill.

He writes: "Having long been a federal criminal defense lawyer, I think, on the basis of news reports, that Trump was properly indicted. He must not be placed above the law, but he must have the best representation possible so there will be no doubt about the validity and fairness of his trial."

"Speaking of justice," **Gerry Sorin** writes, "of course Donald Trump should be convicted. He's a criminal who has committed multiple felonies. If he's not convicted it will demonstrate that whatever is left of our justice system is destroyed."

Gerry recommends Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption,* which, he says, "I ought to have read years ago, and, you might be surprised, James Hannaham's *Didn't Nobody Give a Shit What Happened to Carlotta.* There's a connection."

Gerry is still writing. His ninth book, on Saul Bellow, will be published in April 2024. Meanwhile, he is writing a 10th book: "I'll figure out what it's about when I get to the end.

"Good luck to all of us in the ninth decade of our lives."

Rich Rothenberg recommends *The Wolf Hall Trilogy* by Hilary Mantel.

Phil Lebovitz belongs to a study group of Chicago psychoanalysts who for years have discussed many topics. In recent months they've focused on racism. This prompted Phil to write: "The best book of my past year is *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents,* by Isabel Wilkerson, a remarkable writer; an enlightening book."

During the pandemic, Phil spearheaded an initiative for frontline personnel such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, firefighters, police and others engaging very ill patients. The program offered each person up to eight free sessions of therapy and additional sessions at a negotiated fee. The low-fee clinic of the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute, where Phil had been president/director, administered the program, and psychoanalytic faculty members volunteered their time. "This year," writes Phil, "a pressing issue for me and my colleagues is when to resume in-person meetings with patients. People are all over the landscape on that one. I hope all of you who contracted Covid-19 have recovered and are healthy now.”

Writing from Washington, D.C., **Andy Jampoler** SIPA’81 reports, “Suzy, my wife of 58 years, and I remain well and happy here, as do our children and grandchildren. I continue to work on my memoir, *The Road to Here, Growing Up and Growing Old in Interesting Times,* which, if I ever get to the end, will be my ninth and last book. I volunteer weekly at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Survivors Desk, where I speak about my childhood and improbable survival in Poland. Hordes of young students from all over visit the museum.

“Trump should be tried for his crimes, convicted and jailed. That said, I fear it won’t happen, and he’ll be on the ballot, again threatening our democracy.”

As he’s done for most of the last 16 years, **John Kater** spent the spring teaching at HKSKH Ming Hua Theological College in Hong Kong. He continues to be distressed by “the apparent U.S. vendetta against China, which seems to be at the center of American foreign policy. I wish,” he writes, “everyone could hear what I have been hearing from old friends in Hong Kong. They register both alarm and bewilderment at the saber-rattling and distortions in the American media. Many people have close ties to the United States — some are graduates of American universities, others have American family members or professional ties to American corporations. Nevertheless, out of fear and to signify their disagreement with American policy toward China, they have opted not to visit the U.S., which they see as heightening the danger of war, whether intended or not.”

Although he is “no fan of Trump,” **Roman Kernitsky** feels Trump “should have been reprimanded, not indicted. To indict a former President and possible future opponent is worthy of a banana republic. It’s a case of selective justice, following the non-prosecutions of Hillary Clinton and Hunter Biden. It is a radical and horrible overreach and will further polarize the nation. Aside from that, I am hoping that Ukraine will reclaim some of its lost territory from the monster Putin.”

The best book Roman has read this year is *Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.* “It is,” he says, “a fascinating story of how a person faced death from tuberculosis, and it is particularly relevant for me, as I treated tuberculosis and leprosy as a military medical officer.

“I recommend *The Overstory,* by Richard Powers, a dazzling novel that dramatizes the interdependence of human beings and the earth’s flora and the power of data analysis.”

Howard Relin — father, husband, great-grandfather and Monroe County, N.Y.’s longest-serving DA — died on December 7, 2022. Please read this wonderful, extensive obituary online (bit.ly/3PTbbev), which calls Howie “one of the community’s most popular elected officials, an administrator-politician known for his effortlessly outgoing demeanor.”

Please go to our column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to read news from **Richard Schwartz.**

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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Our 60th reunion was wonderful. Thank you to all our Reunion Committee members and classmates for making it successful and fun! We have decided not to wait another five years — let’s all plan to gather again next year.

David Pittinsky writes, “I regretfully missed our 60th reunion because my dear wife and I were in Paris May 28–June 2, and we had to attend the wedding of a dear friend’s daughter on June 3. We are, however, looking forward to the 65th.

“I am a commercial litigator in Philly and we take numerous vacations to Paris (16 times) and the South of France (19 times). This year we will also visit Italy and Croatia. One of the delights of travel is the people you meet during your trips. This year we were having dinner outside at the wonderful seafood restaurant Girafe, in the Trocadero across the Seine and opposite the Eiffel Tower, and who should be sitting at the next table but Jonathan Schiller ’69, LAW’73, former chair of the Columbia Board of Trustees, current managing partner of the Boies Schiller Flexner law firm and what he most likes to be remembered for, guard on the legendary Jim McMillan ’70 basketball team. Jon was having dinner with another Columbia lawyer, and we had an engaging conversation about all things Columbia.”

Steve Barcan writes, “Our 60th reunion was wonderful. Held June 1–3, it had just the right combination of New York City culture, education and socialization. Most importantly, classmates were genuinely happy to see each other!

“For the past few years our class has ‘met’ twice monthly on Zoom, and it was very nice to see and talk to classmates in person. **Phil Satow** and Donna Satow GS’65’s welcoming party was wonderful, as it always is. We toured several museums and attended several classes. And of course, there were a number of lunches and dinners with excellent conversation. I’m sure everyone is very much looking forward to our 65th!”

Conrad Levenson GSAPP’66 writes, “It was great seeing so many of my ‘old’ classmates at the reunion reception. I enjoyed reconnecting and engaging with so many intelligent, accomplished and entertaining folks. I live in rural upstate Stanfordville, N.Y., with my partner of 26 years, Amy Singer. I retired from the practice of architecture in 2008 and resumed my artistic pursuits as a full-time sculptor. My country property includes my home, studio and sculpture garden. I have four grown children, two of each gender, and five grandchildren ranging from 17 months to 21 years. My oldest is, alas, at Yale, followed this fall by her younger sister. I look forward to more years of artistic production, spending time with my growing family and keeping in touch with as many of my old College buddies as possible. See you all at the 65th reunion.”

Elliott Greher writes, “After 54 years living in the Washington, D.C., area (including nearly 30 years of federal government employment) and more than 45 years in a wonderful, forever house in the most beautiful part of Silver Spring, Md., Elliott Greher and family are moving to New Jersey to a small, rapidly growing, overly religious town, Lakewood.

“We will live in a gated senior citizen community of 1,400-plus, in 23-year-old single-floor houses. No more four floors with a chairlift to help. No more three-fourths–mile walk on Shabbos and Yom tov, up and down lovely hills, to the local synagogue. Now the very small synagogue is directly across our residential street. Much easier on me with my necessary walker/rollator. Big change in culture, cultural attractions and available government services. But great for kosher restaurants. Great volunteer driving services.

“Trading daily delivery of *The Washington Post* and internet delivery of *The New York Times* for daily delivery of the *Times.* (Is there a good New Jersey newspaper?) But still able to join CC’63 twice each month for wisdom and fun.”

Harley Frankel writes, “I learned something that is worth sharing. New research from Nobel Laureate James Heckman shows that the children of the original Perry Preschool Project participants are now showing long-term benefits, as are their parents.

“As director of the Child Development and Day Care Bureau in the former Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now Health and Human Services), I provided the primary funding for the Perry Preschool Project for five years during the 1970s. The Head Start budget was less than $500 million at that time. The Perry Preschool results allowed us to significantly increase the budget, and it currently is at $12 billion. Tens of millions of kids and their families have benefited from these services.”

Steve Stollman writes, “I am working on a prototype of a standing, solar/human powered, wheelchair-carrying vehicle that might end up as a pedicab, a business I started in NYC 30 years ago. I’m thrilled that more of us now understand the peril that our entire society is in, from decades of indulging in unconscious, self-centered, dangerous and destructive habits. We have been so fortunate to live in a time with a cornucopia of opportunities but must also acknowledge that those who follow us are going to face an unending series of challenges to both our physical and spiritual survival. Plenty has also brought us plenty of problems. Meanwhile, still searching for the Humanity in Contemporary Civilization.”

Michael Lubell writes, “Our 60th reunion prompted me to reflect on some of my life experiences, among them my encounters with the CIA. The agency began following me in the mid-1980s when I had top-secret

(Q) clearance. Whenever I returned from frequent business trips abroad, an agent would come to see me and ask what I had encountered in each of the locations I had visited. He always knew all of them. The game ended after six years when I said no to an offer to work undercover.

"A few years later, though, shortly before the Iraq invasion, I was managing the Washington office of the American Physical Society when a courier delivered an unmarked envelope to me after hours. Inside was a sheaf of classified CIA documents indicating there were no WMDs remaining in Iraq. At the time, George Tenet, the director of central intelligence, was telling Secretary of State Colin Powell that the CIA concluded Saddam Hussein still had a stash of them. Thinking about Daniel Ellsberg and being certain that leaking the documents would have no effect on the invasion decision, I finally shredded them. The decision still haunts me.

"Those experiences and others have prompted me to write a novel quasi anchored in reality. The protagonist is a spy who has reached the end of his career and is facing the uncertainties of life after retirement. The science in the story deals with quantum cryptography and its use by a global network of ultra-nationalists bent on destroying democracy. The working title is *Dangerous Entanglements.* I am doing this in my spare time, as I am still fully employed at CCNY."

I sadly report the death of **Michael David Nolan.** Michael was the pillar of his community, Bernal Heights in San Francisco. **David Alpern, Doron Gopstein** and I joined his many friends, including Nancy Pelosi, at his recent Zoom memorial service. Rest in Peace. [Editor's note: Read more in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

We continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Let me know if you'd like to join us, and I'll send you an invite.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe!

Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.**

1964

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
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Norman A. Olch
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The two major political events of our years at the College were the Cuban Missile Crisis, October 16–28, 1962, and, of course, the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963. I asked for recollections or comments on their 60th anniversaries.

On the Missile Crisis:

John Langbein writes: "On the night that Kennedy's ultimatum to Khrushchev was set to expire, and nuclear war was the predicted outcome, I found myself standing in the queue for a movie running at the Paris Theatre on West 58th St. I was in company with a companion from Barnard, and we were having a somber conversation about the odds of whether we would be alive by the end of the evening. I have never forgotten that moment's feeling of abject vulnerability and helplessness. I think that what spared the world from more of these confrontations was Adm. Hyman G. Rickover's development of the ultimate weapon, the nuclear-powered submarine. It was effectively undetectable and thus invincible, which deterred a potential attacker by subjecting the attacker to the certainty of unbearable retaliation."

Andy Russakoff: "Cuban missiles an ill wind. Vietnam tore the heart out of U.S. military, morality and idealism."

On the assassination:

Steve Stander: "Late on that Friday afternoon, I was in a classroom with several other students meeting with a representative of Stanford Law School. Far away, but a good school. Someone knocked on the door and said 'The President's been shot.' Total shock! To his credit, the Stanford rep said, 'Let's find out what happened,' and we all left. One guy had a portable radio and concentric circles of students, faculty and others passed the worsening info back to the outer edges of the growing crowd. I went home (to Yonkers) and experienced the tragic but binding events of that weekend on television, marveling at Jackie's poise, horrified at the Jack Ruby murder of Lee Harvey Oswald and the indifference of the Texas lawmen, and sensing that something more than a young President had died in America."

Joe O'Donnell: "Will always remember Nick Norcott '65, LAW'68 — the sole Black player on the football team — shocked like all, fearing the assassin would be Black, a statement on race relations in 1963.

"P.S. Postponed Rutgers game a week: a 35–28 win, ensuring the Class of '64 had three winning seasons. Last team to accomplish that."

Richard Muller: "I was walking toward Ferris Booth Hall when Monika (a fellow student whose last name I can't recall but who also worked at WKCR) was walking the other way, sobbing. 'President Kennedy has been shot,' she said. I went to the WKCR newsroom where I and a small group watched the ticker-tape (no internet back then) for updates. Much repetition; he was in the hospital, surgeons were working on him. All fake news; he was dead from a gunshot wound deep in his skull. Finally the ticker told the truth, and said that Vice President Johnson would soon be sworn in. They had delayed the news for national security reasons. For the next few days radio and TV stations cut out their advertisements and played the Siegfried funeral music from Wagner's opera *Götterdämmerung.*"

On both events:

Bill Ravreby: "I will never forget watching JFK address the Missile Crisis in the TV room of the freshman 'dorm with no name.' The room was packed and most I suspect were quite frightened. Kennedy never appeared anxious in public. But I have this recollection, real or fantasy, that a rivulet of sweat ran down his forehead when he said, '... even the fruits of victory would be ashes in our mouths.'

"I was a JFK groupie. His murder broke my heart. I and my girlfriend at that time went to Washington, walked by the bier and later stood on Potomac Bridge as the caisson rumbled sonorously by. People I think don't remember well that he had no interest in the Black revolution. He thought it could only hurt him badly. Bull Connor's dogs and firehoses apparently revulsed him, and he found his political voice. His murder and the civil rights acts that followed per LBJ spirited by momentum of Kennedy's death is a significant legacy. I realize these are the recollections of a very young and impressionable youth. Much has been written about the 'what ifs' had he not been murdered. I think we can all agree that his eloquence has rarely if at all been matched. The balance is guesswork."

Lionel Etra: "My memories of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Kennedy assassination are mundane. I remember watching JFK's address when he announced the blockade of Cuba. I had no significant immediate reaction and only focused on the implications after I spoke to Professor Richard Morris GSAS 1930 the following day. He said that he was surprised by his own composure (numbness would probably be more accurate) in the face of such imminent peril.

"Regarding JFK, in the early afternoon of that fateful Friday, I returned to the campus after bowling at Riverside Church just before going home for the weekend. I noticed small separate clusters of people near *Alma Mater.* Each cluster surrounded a small transistor radio. I had never been aware that so many people listened to radios routinely when out of doors, a little like cellphones today. I learned of the shooting immediately, but there was a considerable delay before the announcement of the death. The days that followed, which included the killing of Oswald (in real time on TV) and the funeral, were surreal. What remains most vivid was the endless tattoo of the drums and the sight of the horse-drawn gun carriage moving at a glacial pace."

Steve Case: "Cuban Missile Crisis? Wisely or unwisely, I never got the heebie-jeebies that nuclear war was imminent. It was no doubt much scarier than I thought, but, happily, by luck, I was correct in my response. JFK? That Friday, I was walking to Low Library for my part-time job stuffing envelopes for the Summer Session. I noticed anxious-looking people in small groups, all seemingly distressed about something. On walking into the office, the first words off everyone's lips were 'Did you hear? Someone just shot Kennedy in Dallas.' Electrifying. Just a month or so before then, I had seen JFK from a CU window whizzing down Broadway in an open-top car with Robert Morgenthau, that fall's Democratic candidate for governor of New York. Nobody could do any work, so, with permission, all the staff went home. At the time I was living in an apartment on the 10th floor of 609 W. 114th St. My roommate and I had no TV. We wanted one for that weekend but, owing to cost, buying one was impossible. There were a dozen old, abandoned TVs in the apartment house basement. We tried to fix them (e.g., swapping vacuum tubes), but to no avail. So, we followed events as best as we could on the radio and with phone calls. Even without TV it was all unforgettable and so, so sad."

In other news: **Phillip Lopate** has been inducted as a member into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which honors the nation's leading architects, artists, composers and writers. Phil is on the faculty of Columbia's Graduate Writing Program in the School of the Arts.

Please go to this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to read notes from **Howard Levine** and **Garth Hallberg.**

1965

Leonard Pack
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Allen Brill BUS'68, LAW'68 sent me a report on the impressive generosity of our late classmate **Michael Tapper** GSAS'66, VPS'70: "On May 5, as an executor of the Estate of Michael L. Tapper MD, who died on March 6, 2020, I attended the Metropolitan Opera premiere of a new production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni,* which was underwritten, in part, by Michael's estate, which also made substantial bequests to various charities, including the Metropolitan Opera, Doctors Without Borders, the American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Poverty Law Center and Planned Parenthood, with the balance of his estate going to Columbia College to supplement and improve the College's mental health and suicide prevention program.

"A portion of the bequest to the Met was used to increase the Met's general endowment fund as well as underwrite the new production of *Lucia di Lammermoor,* which premiered in the 2022 season. Other individuals affiliated with Columbia who attended the opening of *Don Giovanni*, both advisors to the Tapper Estate, were Stephen Case '64, LAW'68 and Dr. Jeffrey A. Lieberman, the Lawrence C. Kolb Professor of Psychiatry and the Lieber Professor in Psychiatry at the Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons.

"Stephen, an opera buff, has attended numerous other productions of *Don Giovanni* and told me that he found the new modern production underwritten by the Tapper Estate to be wonderfully well sung and at all times entertaining. He prefers in operas to focus on the singing and how the voices and the orchestral blend together. The modern dress in this production did not in the least detract from his enjoyment. In fact, he felt it made the story, here in the present era of #MeToo, all the more relevant as a great and always-relevant work of musical art from the past."

Remember it from Music Humanities?

Allen continues: "On a personal note, in June 2021 I merged my firm, Brill & Meisel, where I practiced law for 45 years, into Phillips Nizer, and continue to practice in the areas of real estate law and litigation."

Bob Kronley informed me that he had recently learned of the death of **Steve Merrill,** who died almost three years ago. Those of you who attended our 50th reunion will remember Steve's informed and erudite political and economic analysis at an economics session.

Read Steve's obituary from the November 15, 2020, *Washington Post* online: bit.ly/3DbjURy.

Mike Cook continues to publish articles on bankruptcy law at an astonishing rate. Here are his titles as listed on the Schulte Roth & Zabel website since the start of 2023:

"Second Circuit Affirms Slashing of Unreasonable Fees in Dismissed Involuntary Bankruptcy Case," *The Bankruptcy Strategist,* July 2023;

"Second Circuit's Purdue Pharma Ruling: Third Party Releases Remain a Question of Geography," *SRZ Alert,* June 20, 2023;

"Third Circuit: Pre-Bankruptcy Commercial Lease Ter;mination Not Fraudulent Transfer," *Commercial Leasing Law & Strategy,* June 2023;

"Innocent Business Partner's Fraud Liability Survives Bankruptcy," *The Bankruptcy Strategist,* March 2023;

"Eleventh Circuit Stops Plan Confirmation Stampede," *The Bankruptcy Strategist,* February 2023;

"Bankruptcy Court Slams U.S. Trustee's Attempted Disqualification of Investment Banker," *Journal of Bankruptcy Law,* January 2023; and

"Appellate Review of a Bankruptcy Court's Preliminary Injunction," *The Bankruptcy Strategist,* January 2023.

Please let Mike's productivity inspire you to share your news with your class correspondent and classmates, who are all waiting to hear from you! Please send me your latest news, and I'll include it in a future issue. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

1966

Martin Lee
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Greetings, CC'66 classmates.

Tom Chorba, of Allendale, N.J., had a delightful visit with Sue and **Bob Meyerson,** who were in town for their world-famous artist son Jin Meyerson's exhibition. Sue and Bob came in from Minnesota. Tom reemphasized the need for in-person contact with classmates to maintain the bond of friendship.

Daniel Friedlander, of Lexington, Mass., writes: "In June 2019, I retired after 44 years of clinical practice in gastroenterology (Gi). The last several years were capped with a teaching appointment at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. There, as a member of the Gastrointestinal Motility and Functional Bowel Disorders section, I was involved in clinical patient care and instruction of Harvard Medical students and Gi trainees. My wife, Elizabeth 'Beth' Friedlander, retired that same year from her nurse practitioner position in Gi at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"We are a blended family with five children and are busy in the lives of our five grandchildren. Since 2016, I have participated in the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement. At HILR I have been both a student and an instructor, conducting several seminars in European history. Perhaps the most sustained and important connection with Columbia has been with the Double Discovery Center. Project Double Discovery, established in summer 1965 under the auspices of **Steven Weinberg** and former Dean of Students Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, continues to provide a broad range of educational services to New York City high school students. I have also had the good fortune to maintain contact with several classmates including **James Rosenberg, William Steinberg, Gary Kopf, Howard Blank** and **Joseph Albeck.**"

Please send me your latest news. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

1967

Albert Zonana
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We heard from a several classmates for this issue.

Edwin Schlossberg GSAS'71: "After getting a doctorate from Columbia, I started a design company, esidesign. Had about 13 one-man art shows. I am married and have a family and a new grandson. And I look back on Columbia with gratitude."

Paul Gewirtz: "**Al Zonana** has reminded me that I've been invisible on our page for about 50 years, and has asked me to change my ways. I'm sending this along as at least a way of thanking him and all of you who've kept me updated about yourselves.

"I've been teaching at Yale Law since 1976, and haven't retired. I've kept my professional life interesting by constantly changing the subjects I teach and write about. But constitutional law has been a constant field of work. With many steps in between (including government service in the Clinton administration, work on discrimination law and on our judicial system, and a book on law and literature), I am now also the director of Yale's Paul Tsai China Center, an institution I founded, which focuses on U.S.-China relations and also helps to advance China's legal reforms. I've been extremely lucky to have had what feels like many different jobs, but almost all in the same building. As a joke about professors goes, we're always getting older but our students stay the same age. Yet the endless variety of immensely talented and interesting young students is another way my job has remained joyfully ever-changing.

"I have two sons, aged 33 and 27, who remain central to my life and to my happiness about my fortunate life. My years at Columbia College were formative in every way, and I'm regularly startled to realize that things I've read and things I know were from my College days, and that a high percentage of formative human and emotional experiences I've had at least had their origin in those undergraduate years. At our age, we cannot ignore the finiteness of our lives. But I am one of those people who considers the opportunity to live what is a finite life to be a miraculous wonder, the very opposite of a meaningless journey to nowhere. The pain and sadness that are part of living haven't destroyed my sense of the wonder about the life we have, and I try to experience at least my own version of the best of life as much as possible. I hope that continues to the very end."

Robert Levine: "The further we get from those years at Columbia, the more I seem to cherish them. The friendship, support and good times we had at Phi Epsilon Phi helped me so much in coping with the rigors of a Columbia education. Sadly, too many of my brothers have passed away. Their memories will always be in my heart.

"I live in Montclair, N.J., with my wife, Mana, of 50 years. We have two sons, both married with two beautiful children. Our granddaughter Sophie recently had her bat mitzvah in the same temple in which Mana and I were married 50 years ago.

"I have had a wonderful career as a psychologist and psychoanalyst. I earned a Ph.D. and post-doc certificate in psychotherapy and psychoanalysis from NYU. I work three days a week seeing patients and doing supervision; all virtual. I would be happy to hear from any of my Columbia friends."

David Hillis VPS'72: "After graduation and a year in graduate school at the University of Texas-Austin, I entered P&S in 1968. While in Austin, I met my future wife, Nancy, and we married in 1968, 55 years ago. We have no children. I was chief medical resident at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. From 1975 to 1978, we lived in Boston, where I was a fellow in cardiology at the Brigham & Women's Hospital/ Harvard Medical School. In 1978, we returned to Dallas, where I joined the faculty of UT-Southwestern. We were there for 30 years; 15 of those as vice-chair of the Department of Medicine. In 2008, I was recruited to chair the Department of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio.

"I was elected to several honorific societies in internal medicine; I coauthored almost 400 scientific papers and book chapters, including 35 in the *New England Journal of Medicine.* I retired in 2014, and we continue to live in San Antonio. We travel to Europe and New York several times a year. I cycle every day, averaging 1,200 miles each month. In 1990, Nancy and I began to endow a scholarship at the College. I am pleased that the corpus of the scholarship is now of sufficient size that we totally support two College students each year. The only requirement is that the students must be from Texas. For me, leaving a relatively small town in Texas (Tyler) to attend Columbia was a life-changing experience, which I am eager to help other Texans to experience."

Chun-Min "Tony" Kao '68 (left) and Arthur Spector '68 with several of the musical stars who "joined" the class on June 3 in Low Rotunda at its 55-year reunion dinner, which featured a performance by the Cotton Club All Stars.

John Boyd: "After graduation, I avoided the draft by enrolling in SIPA. Grad school deferments ended, so I got married. Marriage deferment ended, so I joined VISTA and went to Northern New Mexico, where I got a wonderful education of a different, but equally important sort. Darcy and I had a son. I turned the magic age of 26 and went straight to University of New Mexico School of Law. Graduated in 1973 and hung out a shingle a year later with my dear classmate David Freedman '66. Four of us, now close to 80, are slowly closing down the firm after 49 years. My partner Nancy Hollander and I got the religious use of hallucinogenic drugs OK'd by a unanimous Supreme Court vote, additionally opening the way for research with LSD and other hallucinogenic drugs. However, that case also became, to our dismay, the battering ram for the Hobby Lobby decision and other travesties. We also represented 'The Holy Land Five.' Four of them are serving what are effectively life prison terms for the crime of providing charitable assistance in The West Bank and Gaza.

"Now remarried, for 35 years, to Roberta Price. Three wonderful boys from three marriages; two lawyers, one banker. Still in touch with pals **Jon Howland** (retired professor of epidemiology at BU) and **Jon Buller.** Say it isn't so that The West End is no more."

Jim Bourgart reports that as of late 2022 he has finally, officially and fully retired. His career has been approximately half in the public sector in California and half in the private sector, mostly working on transportation issues and projects. His last assignment was for San Mateo County, but previously he was on staff for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California and the State Legislature. Jim and his wife, Arielle, are enjoying retirement and international travel — this year a Rhine River cruise and last year a cruise around Ireland. At home, he still dabbles in local politics and is an admitted "political news junkie."

Please see the online version of this column (college.columbia.edu/cct) for news from **Leopoldo López** and **Josh Leinsdorf.**

Be well, all of you, and do write.

1968

Columbia College Today
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[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Arthur Spector** for his 21 years of service as class correspondent. This is his last column. If you are interested in taking on this role, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'68 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your news, updates and/or College memories to *CCT* using the email above or through the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Our 55th reunion (held June 1–3) was a big celebration with a record turnout for a 55th reunion. We were by far a record reunion for our 50th, so I am going to just make a few observations about our 55th. I had planned to joke about how we were sitting in Low Library 55 years later and having dinner but I didn't.

We had a very good Welcome Reception/cocktail party on Friday in Butler. On the way to there — the party was held in the Lawrence A. Wien Main Reading Room — I walked past a picture of Dwight David Eisenhower. I hadn't noticed it before.

Dean Josef Sorett spoke at our luncheon on Saturday, held in the Faculty Room in Low, followed by three professors and health experts — **Cliff Andrew**, **Bill Chin** and **Nigel Paneth** — who talked about staying healthy. The dean was wonderful and our classmates were impressive. At lunch I saw many, including my roommate and fellow philosophy major **Robert Brandt,** whom I hadn't seen in decades, it seems. That is what reunions are about, for sure!

If I may back up for a moment, Peter Hiebert '71 and I (he lives nearby in Miami Beach and is a big Columbia football fan, like me) talked a lot about this reunion. Peter thought we should invite his class to join us as well as some other classes — "overlap" classes, so to speak: CC'67, CC'69, CC'70 and CC'71.

Peter and I conceived of getting the Cotton Club All Stars 13-piece swing band and singer for our Saturday dinner, and we did! They were so much fun and were just great. And yes, we had Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong.

The dinner, held in the Low Rotunda, began with Ted Gregory '74 singing a gospel piece; he was extraordinary. He added some Columbia football moments from the past to the mix.

The tables were set up like a nightclub, with cutouts of Frank Sinatra up front for pictures. I was so happy to see so many but so disappointed not to have enough time to chat with many.

Brian Krisberg '81, LAW'84, one of the College's great alums, came by for drinks before our dinner, and to say hello to me, for which I was especially grateful. I saw two former heavyweight rowers, **Tom Sanford** and **Arthur Kaufman**. Tom is still rowing and Arthur swims daily. Art's wife, Susan BC'68, also was there. **Bill Henrich** and his wife, Mary, were seen hanging out with Sinatra and both looked great. I believe I have run into them a few times at the Metropolitan Opera, a long way from San Antonio! **Frank Costello** and his wife, Cynthia, were in from Los Angeles and were celebrating a wedding anniversary in the city. I was so happy to see **Neil Gozan** and **Rich Ahearn** at the cocktail party. They looked the same to me. **Roger Nott,** in from rural Georgia, told me about his love of whitewater canoeing. He's into danger, for sure! Also there were **Tony Kao,** in from Sudbury, Mass., and **George Ting,** in from Palo Alto (friends from Tokyo a long time ago); **John Grant,** a playwright; and **Michael Haggiag,** a sculptor, in from London. A few, like **Randy "Beirut" Vaughan,** met with Tony and George for a short visit when he was in Paris for his daughter's wedding. **Paul de Bary** and his wife, Stefana, were in Brussels for a big family event, going back hundreds of years, and "will be at the next one." **Ken Tomecki** has also committed to the next one.

I saw **Ira Goldberg** and **Buzz Zucker,** both of whom had been reunion focused. **Seth Weinstein** was so pleased to be there from his home in Florida. Also joining were Bob Costa '67, BUS'69 and his wife, Joan, from Naples, Fla., and Jenik Radon '67 from the Upper West Side. **Jim Shorter,** and **Mike Stone SEAS'68,** who came in from Boston, had big smiles (as did everyone, it seems!). I think I heard that **Andy Herz** had lunch at Tom's. Again, I felt bad that I didn't have more time to chat. There are so many others are on the list for the future already, for example, **Frank Dann** and **Joe DiBenedetto.**

With some sadness, we had a list of those who have passed away. It seemed long to me, but I am told we have done better, mortality wise, as a group. I missed a number of those classmates, for sure. On a happy note, the Saturday night crowd was in good humor, spirited, cheerful and ebullient, and looked great to me. And I bet Low Library has never had a Big Band playing there.

Our dinner ended with **Mas Taketomo,** in from rural Minnesota, spontaneously leading the congregation in singing "Sans Souci," and many joined the initial group at the stage to join in the singing, like **Ross Ain.** At the end of the band's performance, it played "When the Saints Go Marching In," and to my amazement, everyone got up and danced the conga. What a way to end the night!

As usual, the Class of 1968 is able to try new things, as we did during our time on campus. Peter Hiebert '71, along with his wife, Elaine (Princeton, hmm), have many thoughts about reunion activities that will be shared with the dean.

Hope to see you at a Columbia football game, and I continue to recommend Lions women's basketball head coach Megan Griffith '07 as the Ivy League Coach of the Year.

Take care. **Bill Chin** reminded us all to focus on our balance! I will always take Bill's advice. And I do want to salute **Tom Sanford** for his efforts on all the reunions!

1969

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
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Irving Ruderman writes that he "and **Richard Rapaport** … carried our 1969 class banner in the Alumni Parade of Classes [on Class Day, May 16], as we were the only ones from our class. The students cheered us. Some told me they study us in history. There was one alumnus from the Class of 1953 and one from the Class of 1954 at the front, and numerous others after them, but we keep getting closer."

Irv also reported that on May 23, "a beautiful spring day, we held our second class get-together — aside from reunion every five years — by meeting for lunch at the Bryant Park Grill. There were nine of us in attendance, some who came to the first one in November, and some new faces: **Dick Menaker, Rich Rapaport, Irv Ruderman, Rob Friedman, Chuck Bethill, Dwight Lee, Fred Pack, Rod Reef SEAS'69** and **Sam Goldman.** A good time was had by all."

He also reminds: "It is time to start planning for our 55th reunion."

Vaud Massarsky writes; "My salient fact is that my wife, Felicia, and I have relocated for the foreseeable future to Menton, France, on the French Riviera. It is called 'The Pearl of France,' as it sits at the point that the Alps come crashing to the sea. It is a 15-minute train ride to Italy, and it has a microclimate that supports orange and lemon growth in profusion. The aesthetic values — visual, musical and climatic — are limitless, as it is next to Monaco and 20 minutes from Nice."

Vaud also responded to the query about what a Columbia degree has meant for him. "Columbia's imprimatur always carries symbolism depending on where the recipient sits: can be envy, disdain, appreciation, New York City association and so on. But never an association of dullness or the humdrum."

Hart Perry SOA'71 reports an unanticipated consequence of the National Education Association-funded artist-in-residence program he administered at Bard College through his holography lab: "The young woman who received the grant and my 27-year-old son Michael fell in love, got married and are expecting a child."

Peter O'Hare writes: "I advise those who knew us, or of us, that Rita Castora of Finch College and I have celebrated our 50th year of marital bliss. This is significant, as our first encounter took place at the Son of October 14th mixer (10/14/66)! There were a number of classmates and football teammates who enjoyed our years at Columbia with us at mixers, frat parties, Finch cocktail parties and Dean's Day dinners. While I certainly appreciated our fine faculty, superior classes and my interaction with many good men who went on to fine careers in myriad areas, this relationship, with all those who ran with us, was the best part of my Columbia experience! Best regards to **Gary Otsuji, Ron Mangione SEAS'69, Rick Marsella, Jim O'Connor, Alan Romanczuk, Rick Lounsbury** and **Jim Alloy,** among others. While we now spend six months alternatively in North Palm Beach, Fla., and New Jersey, I would love to spend some time reminiscing with classmates! I'm in the phone book! Hey, we really 'Owned New York!'"

Henry Jackson writes: "My experience has been that my

Columbia degree has brought more intangible rewards than material rewards, except when I worked in Germany. The name Columbia meant a great deal there and caused people to overlook my physical handicap. Unfortunately, that has not been the case here. That is why I became a freelance translator. The anonymity of working from home made it possible for me to earn a living and to travel to most of the places I wanted to visit.

"Now that Anno Domini has crept up on me, I can look back at my life with a certain degree of satisfaction. What more can one ask?"

Ira Stollak notes: "At 75, I'm still the incorrigible eco-anarchist who joined the Math Commune in April '68. After graduation I married my high school sweetheart and earned an M.A. in comparative literature at UC Santa Cruz. We eventually settled onto a homestead on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. Blew up the TV, planted a garden and orchard, built us a home. (John Prine, how we miss you.) Later we went our separate ways but co-parented our son, Jesse.

"I gardened, carpentered, ran a small nonprofit serving at-risk adolescents, taught college English, climbed, hiked and skied, coached kids' baseball and soccer, and anchored my sanity in a Zen practice. After my son graduated from college, I became a 'digital nomad,' working on public health projects in Alaska, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Bolivia, Haiti, Liberia, Kenya and India, and earning an M.P.H. at the U. of Washington. I helped marginalized rural communities understand and respond to their own epidemiology and improve their health. I just recently retired.

"My beautiful wife, Martha, and I live in magnificent Colombia, up in the Andes. She's plunged into the country's exciting political transformation with the election of Gustavo Petro, and when I'm not supporting her I'm doing typical retiree/grandpa stuff: birding, hiking, reading, maintaining my disintegrating skeleton, writing, doing pro bono work, and visiting and video-chatting with our kids and grandkids. Fond memories of '60s Columbia: Rimbaud, Marx and Lennon; transcendent music; Sundial rallies and the strike; and inspiring teachers — Michael Wood, Howard McP. Davis, Ralph Holloway and Kenneth Koch come to mind. A magical time."

Martin Konikoff offers that "June always means Columbia Reunion and another chance to get together with the Columbia Alumni Singers. This year we serenaded the Barnard Class of '68 at its Friday dinner, and then sang at the Performing Arts Groups Reception on Saturday afternoon. Always great to sing 'Sans Souci.' Looking forward to singing next year at our 55th reunion. I hope many classmates who were members of the Glee Club, Barnard-Columbia Chamber & Chorus Choir, etc., will join the fun."

Speaking with Dr. **Randy Mound** in June got me wondering about how meaningful work sustains us, especially late in life. (He, as did I, graduated behind the class after taking leave in spring '67 to travel to Israel in advance of what came to be known as the 6-Day War.) Randy always said there was nothing else he ever wanted to be but an M.D. He took a break after retiring in 2014, but volunteered with a nonprofit to answer consumer Medicare questions. In 2022, he returned to occasional work as a physician with Denver Health — he is a radiologist — and this year, began working for Kaiser Permanente. As he closes in on 75, he is seeking the balance between how much professional work is invigorating and how much is exhausting. As I reached 75 by the end of June, I can confirm how delicate that balance has become.

How about you? Have you returned to work post-retirement? In your previous career? But, perhaps in a different direction? Or along a new pathway entirely? Why did you make that choice? What's been the outcome?

1970

Leo Kailas
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I thank the many classmates who send me kind notes thanking me for the Class Notes that I circulate. As I have said, I am a junkie for your good news so please keep sending me emails.

I begin with news of the birth of my third grandchild, Calliope Anne, to my daughter Arianne and her husband, Andy Vitrano. Callie is the sweetest baby to come into the Kailas family — of my three children, only Arianne approached Callie's sweet disposition.

Sam Estreicher LAW'75 reminded me of his nuptials to Abby Burman after the passing of his wife. If you know Sam, please send him a congratulatory note.

Dov Zakheim, a distinguished government service classmate, reports, "I recently became a columnist for, and chairman of the advisory board of, a new journal, *Jerusalem Strategic Tribune*, published by a prominent Moroccan and inspired by the Abraham Accords. I was named to the congressionally mandated National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology."

My friend from high school, Professor **Robert Launay**, shares, "I am writing from Berlin, where I am finishing a two-month fellowship at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (Center for the Modern Orient), which includes Africa. I have been giving a talk on racializing Islam and the French colonial notion of a specifically Black Islam, not only in Berlin but also in Geneva and Bayreuth. I recently was appointed executive editor of the *Journal of Religion in Africa*, which came as a total surprise. Apparently, it is not yet time for me to retire!"

Robert was a scholar in high school and he has gone on to a remarkable career at Northwestern.

Bob Dreyfuss reports: "I've recently semi-retired as an independent, investigative journalist after 30 years writing for magazines such as *Rolling Stone* and *The Nation*. After living in New York, Alexandria, Va., and Cape May, N.J., my wife of 53 years, Barbara BC'70, and I have settled in Maplewood, N.J. As a reporter, I've visited Iran, Vietnam, China and Tanzania, among other places, though I've mostly worked from D.C. and New York. However, I'm actively considering un-retiring to write about the dire challenges to our democracy that we all face. We have two grown offspring, Justin (38) in Chicago and Anna (29) in New York. I often hang out on campus when there are events that interest me."

My longtime friend **Frank Motley** LAW'74, who clearly holds the class record for grandchildren (19) and great-grandchildren (11), gave me his update: "Not much new. **Mark Clark** is a happily retired cardiologist in Hampton, Va., and I teach part time in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University. Commuting between Bloomington, Ind., and West Palm, Fla."

Professor **Peter Novalis** (perhaps a first-time contributor), notes: "I have recently published two books on psychotherapy: *Clinical Manual of Supportive Psychotherapy*, 2nd ed. 2020, authors: Peter N. Novalis, M.D., Ph.D., Victor Chavira, Virginia Singer, Ph.D. and Roger Peele, M.D., and *Psychotherapy in Corrections: A Supportive Approach*, 2023, authors: Peter N. Novalis, M.D., PhD., Virginia Singer, Ph.D. and Carol M. Novalis, M.A."

Congratulations, Peter, and keep us in mind!

Peter Gordon thanked me for the Class Notes and also for not reporting on the ravages of our age.

Fellow lawyer **Michael Braun** LAW'73 writes: "At our age there is very little interesting for most people to report. I recently took my granddaughters (13 and 11) and grandson (2) to the Turks and Caicos for some (unbleached) snorkeling. The girls asked me whether I enjoyed the vacation as much as they did. I said I did but also told them that because I'm retired every day is a vacation. Hope you are well. I see you are still working. Retirement/vacation is also fun."

Rip Wilson reports: "After a late-in-life marriage to Susan Feagin GS'74, we are moving back to the city. New address: 155 W. 68th St., Apt. 34F, New York, NY 10023."

Professor **Larry Rosenwald** GSAS'79 wrote: "Well, I've now retired. Not big news by itself, admittedly. Maybe more interesting is that preposterously enough, my colleague Thomas Nolden put together a two-volume *Festschrift* in my honor (a collection of essays on the theme of translation understood broadly, some directly about me but most not). The first volume, *Beyond the Textual*, has been published; the second, *In the Face of Adversity*, is available through Open Access (online at bit.ly/3PQxX6O). Meanwhile, we've moved, downsized, been flooded, have more or less recovered and live a 10-minute walk from our local daughter and her 7-year-old, Matthew. Recently finished a set of verse narratives for Cavalli's opera *Erismena*, which I performed at the

CC'71 friends and their significant others (left to right) Linda Bantel, Jeff Weinberg '71, Dave Hollenberg '71, Myra Weinberg, Joan Shapiro, Susan Silverman BC'72, Mark Silverman '71 and Ed Gartenberg '71 held a mini-reunion at Knickerbockers on June 2.

Amherst Early Music Festival in early July, maybe my 50th show of this kind."

Paul Rosen: "I am a doctor now working part time doing a mix of primary care, medicine, psychiatry and neurology, my multi-board specialties. I work primarily with underserved populations. I hope that I can continue to work for a few more years.

"It was my privilege to volunteer for Columbia's Odyssey Mentoring Program, whereby I was assigned an undergraduate to mentor. It is a good program, and I recommend it for other alumni (college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring?src=vol). It involves talking on the phone with your assigned undergraduate and when possible meeting them for lunch at Columbia. It gives them an opportunity to meet with, and get advice from, a professional working in the field that they are considering entering upon graduation.

"I have wonderful grandchildren, and I would list being a grandfather as the high point of my post-Columbia life. I attended last year's graduation reunion, as Class of '70 members were invited. Unfortunately, I was the only one from our class in attendance, but I was adopted by other classes and had a very nice time. I am looking forward to our next official reunion, in 2025, and I hope to see many of my alumni friends."

Finally, **Steve Boatti** writes: "I am long retired from a career as a corporate lawyer. My wife, Linda, a retired teacher, and I have lived since 1978 in Riverdale, in the Bronx, where we raised two sons and now also have two grandchildren. We've recently happily revived our pre-pandemic travel habits with two European trips this year. (Our last trip was a glorious sojourn in Moscow and St. Petersburg in 2019 — a trip that Americans won't be able to take again in our lifetime, I fear.) In the spring we took a terrific Met Museum tour of southwest France and Paris that focused on Medieval art and architecture. And in June we spent a week in Tuscany with our sons and their families followed by a week on our own in Puglia and Rome.

"I am still bummed that Covid-19 robbed us of our 50th reunion. That couldn't be helped, but it's a shame the College made no effort to host a delayed reunion in the year or two after. I hope we'll all make it to the 55th!"

Paul Rosen and I second that suggestion!

1971

Lew Preschel
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Mark Silverman joined **Dave Hollenberg, Jeff Weinberg** and **Ed Gartenberg** LAW'74 to hold a mini-reunion before the formal one that was held on campus in early June. He provided the nearby photo of the event. They met with their significant others at Knickerbockers for a few drinks.

The 52nd class reunion was an event that **Peter Hiebert** helped plan and carry out. In order to be efficient, a cluster of five class years were grouped together. Because the Class of 1968 was having its 55th-year reunion, they co-ventured it with our class under the direction of Peter and Art Spector '68. This created a large group of friends to congregate, reminisce and get reacquainted. Eighty alumni from the five classes attended events. Our class generated 16.

Cluster-specific events included a wonderful reception in Butler Library and a luncheon in the Faculty Room in Low Library at which Dean Josef Sorett and three prominent physicians from the Class of 1968 educated the audience on how to age gracefully. A reception and dinner in Low Rotunda allowed the alumni and their guests to be entertained by the house band of Harlem's iconic Cotton Club, accompanied by their lead singer in a medley of Frank Sinatra songs. The Manhattanville campus abuts that famous jazz club. Ted Gregory '74, a member of the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame, sang an a cappella gospel song beautifully.

Among classmates who attended the festivities in part or whole were **Ken Lehn** LAW'74, **Len Renery, Josh Rubenstein, Tony Dupee, Julio Rivera, Rey Bonachea, Richard Squires, Paul Arnest,** and Peter with his wife, Elaine Chan.

Ken and Len were members of our undefeated freshman soccer team, as was I. Len was particularly talented in the sport and went on to play professionally for many years. Ken remains in law practice in New Jersey. Tony played freshman baseball with Len and me. Rey was a member of the basketball team and went on to a distinguished career at Bell Labs. He is now retired. Richard is a world-renowned playwright and director who has acted on stage and in movies. He founded several theater companies. Richard recently completed a new play and published a book of poetry.

Len had an interesting conversation with Josh, who has written nine books on Stalin, the last of which, *The Last Days of Stalin*, was critically acclaimed and widely translated.

Dean Porter BUS'76 communicates that he is setting up a company to provide psychiatric-managed psychedelic treatment centers that will provide a paradigm shift in the treatment for mental health. He is involved in the family office space. In addition, he provides legal counsel in South Carolina for the Forward Party, a new centrist political movement founded by Christie Whitman and Andrew Yang. Dean expresses amazement at the number of New York and New Jersey license plates arriving in Charleston, S.C. He understands why, as he moved there 20 years ago. He welcomes anyone coming to South Carolina and would love to know about your visit.

It has been more than 50 years since we graduated. More than 105 of us went on to medical school, became physicians, and provide healthcare and treatment to our communities. Some of these same doctors went into research, advancing the frontiers of treatment. Many classmates became lawyers who earned justice and fair treatment for their clients. Some became judges adjudicating laws and promoting equality without regard to social status. Others went into politics, creating laws and making America what it is today. Yet others became teachers and professors at schools and universities across our nation. They transfer knowledge to and prepare a new generation of students to lead and create. We have classmates in the arts who have worldwide reputations, while others have become successful entrepreneurs and developed industries and markets with significant economic effects. Several have joined professions about which I can claim no knowledge, but they have commanded their fields with respect from their peers. Our class has affected the world and made its mark. We have one thing in common: four years spent at Columbia College. Events that filled those years have changed our nation as well as our lives. I speak without fear of contradiction — those years directed the paths that our lives followed. I have always been interested (nosy) in how classmates followed their life paths and the outcomes of their journeys.

If you would like to answer that question for classmates, please drop me a line at l.a.preschel@gmail.com or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1972

Paul Appelbaum
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Don Peters, who says, "I'm the guy no one can remember" (sounds like a challenge to me — anyone want to rise to the occasion?), updates us on his last 50 years. Don went

Allan Solomon '73 and Nick Lubar '73 at their 50-year reunion dinner on June 3.

to law school at the University of Texas, Austin, and then moved to Phoenix, where he met his wife and had "three delightful offspring." He was a partner at Peters, Cannata & Moody, and was an adjunct professor at the law school of Arizona State University. "Eventually, although not soon enough," he says, "I retired from practicing law. Kenneth Koch's writing classes have come in handy, as I still write poems. All in all, I've had fun and have no regrets."

As those of you who were at reunion last year will recall, **Armen Donelian** is still active as a jazz composer and performer. This past summer, his schedule included performances in a variety of venues, from the 17th annual Hudson JazzWorks concert in Hudson, N.Y., to the Hotel Congress in Tucson, to the Union of Architects in Yerevan, Armenia.

Go, Armen!

"Nothing earthshaking to report," writes **Steven Schacter** LAW'76, "but my wife and I took a party of 27 to Israel for Passover — us, our four daughters and their husbands, and their combined 17 children, aged 6 weeks–21 years. And we all celebrated the bar mitzvah of a grandson. And damned straight I'm still working, to pay for our larger-than-normal family."

And speaking of bar mitzvahs, my wife, Dede, and I were in Washington, D.C., in June to proudly celebrate the bar mitzvah of our grandson Joshua, with our son Yoni '03 and his wife, Emily SEAS'03, SEAS'04 (née Pressman).

Please reach out if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes Class Notes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1973

Barry Etra
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Our 50th reunion has come and gone; would love to hear more about it from any who were present. Please let me know!

Douglas Andrews GSAS'76 weighed in from the United Kingdom. He launched his latest venture, DoubleWing Health & Beauty, which provides a tech-enabled omnichannel marketplace for foreign cosmetic and personal care products in the $70 billion Chinese market.

Erik Bergman retired in 2017, and is following his passions — birding and Toastmasters International. He leads field trips for Portland Audubon and the Oregon Birding Association, and recently returned from seeing nesting Great Gray Owls in the Blue Mountains. He and his wife, Susan, were on safari in Kenya and were "awed by the magnificent mammals of the Masai Mara National Reserve, as well as the warm welcome of the native Masai people, who shared their culture with us." Erik is president of WE Toasted Toastmasters Club in Lake Oswego, Ore.

Mike Byowitz had the honor of representing our class at Commencement, held on May 17, where he placed hoods on those receiving honorary degrees, one of whom was Bob Woodward. Mike was a partner at Wachtell Lipton in New York and is now of counsel; he is also active in the American Bar Association, helping lead a pilot program that aids Afghan legal professionals in becoming lawyers in the United States. To date, 12 law schools have agreed to provide one or more full-tuition scholarships; the program is expanding to help judges and prosecutors (especially women) who made it to this country with living expenses and housing. Tax-deductible contributions may be made at ambar.org/donate/ITL.

That's the lot; not a lot! Take the hint, y'all …

1974

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
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Fred Bremer
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As I write this column, the Supreme Court is scheduled to release its determination on whether to reverse its decision to ban the use of affirmative action in college admissions (known as the "Bakke precedent" after the student who was refused admission due to racial quotas). Few of us probably realize that this ruling came 50 years ago, shortly after some of us benefited from so-called "reverse discrimination" to gain our own admission to the College. It made me remember a recent *Wall Street Journal* article on the importance of diversity, which said, "Colleges need more programs where students of different backgrounds can wrestle together with the big questions posed by the humanities." The headline on the article was "Great Books Can Heal Our Divided Campuses." It should come as no surprise that there was a picture of students of different ethnic groups sitting on Low Steps.

Like many classmates, **Brad Higgins** LAW'78 tells us he is doing a "fade" rather than abruptly quitting his career. He continues to work in venture capital and says he manages his existing investments but claims he is not taking on new ones. In the meantime, he is chairman of three companies that are all involved in businesses that have a positive impact on health and the environment.

Brad notes, "I miss my time in government as the chief financial officer of the State Department during the Bush II administration, but the hyper-partisan nature of D.C. in 2023 makes me glad to be that goldfish that escaped the piranha pond before getting eaten." He adds, "Looking forward to our 50th reunion next year. I now know what the Class of 1924 must have been feeling when we graduated — scary how fast the time went!"

I emailed back that the years do seem to zip by quickly, but at least the vitality of classmates seems to not pass as fast. Good trade-off!

Joel Almquist (who lives in Jamaica Plains, Mass.) writes that "mixing some work, family time and creativity (art) makes for a good life." He is also kept busy with his four grandchildren (four boys, aged 2–8). Joel says "staying employed as a lawyer (at K&L Gates) allows me to be in denial about how old I am!"

Not everyone is still working. **Frank Bruno** BUS'76 retired in 2020 after a 41-year career at the Sidley Austin law firm. However, he manages to find time for reading, tennis and spending time with five grandchildren. I frequently see Facebook posts from **Peter Zegarelli** DM'78 (retired dentist living in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.) talking about his gardening and how he uses the fresh ingredients for cooking triumphs. **Tony Barreca** (who lives in Santa Barbara) has been retired from a career as an engineering executive for more than two years. Living only 10 miles from the ocean, he and his wife (of 45 years!) frequently trek to the waves. He tells us their daughter has been rumbling about moving to Morningside Heights.

There you have it. Classmates working full time, part time and some not working at all. By the time we gather for our 50th reunion, it is likely the proportions in each group will be very different!

1975

Robert Katz
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Here is some news about **Michael Gordon,** who recently retired from the practice of environmental law in New Jersey:

"Michael Gordon, a pioneer in New Jersey plaintiffs' environmental law, was amongst the group of first-ever *New Jersey Law Journal*'s lifetime achievement award winners, recognizing his lifetime of work shaping the environmental legal landscape in New Jersey. Upon retirement from Gordon and Gordon, the law firm he founded with his brother, he continued his work as senior policy advisor to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

"As part of his work for NJDEP, Michael recently was one of the principal authors of the first-in-the-nation Environmental Justice Law, which is the first law passed to specifically protect low-income, minority and non-English speaking communities from the opening of new polluting facilities in these already overburdened communities."

Of note, in addition to his brother, our late classmate **Tim Haley** was also a founding member of his firm.

Dan Mauzy has monthly Zoom meetings with 10–15 members of the class. I am not one of them, so I asked to join. Thus far, I have not received an answer. Hmmm.

Start thinking about the 50th reunion and what special class events you would like to include. We want it to be a memorable weekend.

Please reach out if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1976

Ken Howitt
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Starting this column as usual with the turntable humming. This time, with the afternoon sun streaming over my laptop, I picked a Haydn symphony and relived those windowless studio afternoons in Ferris Booth Hall engineering WKCR's "Afternoon Music."

Updates came in fast and furious. Pardon the brevity, but I only have so much space, so here goes!

George Freimarck GSAS'81 leads off. George helped formed an alumni group, the King's Crown Rowing Association, which supports crew with its annual awards dinner. The KCRA also annually races in Boston in the Head of the Charles Regatta. See the nearby photo from last October's event.

Gordon Bock SIPA'77, JRN'77 checked in from Vermont, where he is proud of his daughter Gabrielle, who was one of only six eighth-graders statewide selected as a legislative page in the Vermont State Legislature. In her spare time, Gabrielle plays soccer and ice hockey, and participates in track and field.

Left to right, Robert Kaminski, Louis Anon '76, Kimberly Santamaria and Dr. John Santamaria '77 enjoyed a dinner dance at St. Charles Yacht Club in Fort Myers, Fla., on February 25.

At the October 22, 2022, Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, the King's Crown Rowing Association raced in honor of the 1971 lightweight crew, which made it to the quarter-final round of the Henley Regatta that year. Left to right: Paul Gruber SEAS'72, John E. Mulligan III '72, George Freimarck '76, Al Medioli '73, Terence Waldron SEAS'82, Carl C. Eierle '88, James Murphy '88 and Scott MacCormack '89, with coxswain Conan Hom, from MIT, in front.

Sounds like Gordon will come to our 50th reunion with Gabrielle on her Columbia College visit.

John Markowitz GSAS'78, VPS'82: "I'm still trying to do clinical research at Columbia/New York State Psychiatric Institute and recently published a book, *Brief Supportive Psychotherapy,* which we developed as a kind of psychotherapy placebo but turns out to work very well in treating major depression."

Auggie Ong PH'91 was among the attendees meeting with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in May "to provide the commissioners with updates on the National Materials Program and the emerging fusion technologies. A great learning experience was had by the attendees, in-person or remotely."

Auggie belongs to the Organization of Agreement States (regulators of use of radioactive materials) and its sister organization, Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. Auggie (who looks great!) also included a photo of all the attendees. Auggie was the only Columbia attendee pictured, so we can't include it in these pages, but his email sign off indicates how that Morningside Heights sense of humor is always present: "Yours truly is the wise guy, who grew up in Bklyn, in the middle of the photo with a grin on his face, while trying to ham it up."

I do enjoy this job!

Joe Graif BUS'78 reports from Virginia that the 2023 concert season of the Susan A. & Joseph N. Graif Foundation had five concerts. Susan and Joe and are working hard to fund the 2024 season and ask interested classmates to get in touch through the foundation website: graiffoundation.org.

Barney Schwartz occasionally checks in from Israel. We have had some fun exchanges, but updates are usually not part of it. Like many of CC'76ers, he is in touch with alumni, but as he says regarding news, "I have been scanning my brain, but I haven't come up with anything."

I mention Barney, as this worldwide network really impresses me!

Michael Gilbride remembered Dean Peter Pouncey, who passed away on May 30, 2023 (college.columbia.edu/news/peter-r-pouncey-ninth-dean-college-was-instrumental-its-move-coeducation), talking about Columbia as the last all-male and smallest college class size in the Ivy League and calling our Bicentennial Class "a special class."

Michael and his wife, Providencia, went to Spain and Ireland during the summer. In the fall, he is going to Greece and will take his fourth trip to the Cave of the Apocalypse in Patmos. Michael also has a book coming out in November: *Memoirs of Thirty Years in the Classroom: Public, Private and Parochial.*

Michael concluded with, "Life is an Odyssey!"

Go to this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to see a photo of Michael and Tim Butler '75, who got together to celebrate birthdays.

Rich Rohr has "come to realize that retirement is the time to do things that you think are important, but no one will pay you for. I am now an assistant professor at New York Medical College, where I went after Columbia, helping the next generation of doctors understand how to generate value in healthcare. I am also helping the YMCA here in Philadelphia develop its future leaders."

Rich also mentioned the necessity of planning for the 50th reunion. More on that follows.

Here is my personal update: Recently, I decided to leave a legacy gift with the 1754 Society of Columbia University. Through the Office of Alumni and Development, the 1754 Society provides the opportunity for a bequest to the University that can be included in your estate planning or other vehicles (the number of options rivals the menu at Moon Palace!). I chose a deferred annuity, which I felt made sense. Even in the annuity option, there are many choices. Our class is very fortunate to have **Dan Baker** as our 1754 Society Class Ambassador (rumor has it that the development office thinks that Dan was born in 1754, not 1954). Dan's guidance was critical in helping find the right individualized gift form for my needs. Dan is amazing and I encourage all of you to reach out to him (dan.baker1954@gmail.com) to learn about this opportunity.

During Columbia Reunion 2023, held June 1–3, there was a reception for the 1754 Society, and afterward I drove Dan and his wife, Rebecca, to their Manhattan apartment. I actually found street parking! So, I received a spur of the moment invitation for wine and cheese. We had a great time reminiscing, talking about family and laughing.

The benefits of driving people home never cease to amaze me.

Just a heads-up on some events: The Homecoming game will take place at Robert K. Kraft Field when Columbia plays Penn on Saturday, October 14. The day's events are family friendly, with activities starting in the morning that include a barbecue. Homecoming is part of Family Days (Friday, October 13–Sunday, October 15), sponsored by Columbia College and Columbia Engineering (cc-seas.columbia.edu/family/events/family-days).

Then, of course, you will be hearing from me and other Columbia College Fund Class Agents about Columbia Giving Day, Wednesday, October 25. I owe the class a big thank you for putting up with my shameless harvesting for the College Fund. Living in Hoboken, I try to get to campus often and to meet a lot of incredible current students, who always make me proud of our Columbia heritage. Your support creates such great opportunities and has a lasting impact through these incredible young people.

Finally, we are beginning to ramp up our 50th reunion plans, as usual under the stewardship of **Steve Davis** LAW'79, our longtime Reunion Committee chair, who always gets the class that invitation to the chocolate fountain at the Barnard reunion. We have had our first disagreement of the year, as Steve and Dan want to have Big Papi as our dinner speaker, and I want to get Mookie Wilson.

We need your input to make the event terrific. Please reach out to me with requests or ideas. Usually, reunion begins on the first Thursday night in June and extends to Saturday night. So, lightly pencil that in for 2026. If you have ideas for events around the city, or speakers, or subjects to discuss, please send them in, or if you have time, join the Reunion Committee.

Thanks again for making this column what it is. Hope to see you at Homecoming!

1977

David Gorman
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This summer I heard from **Barry Bergdoll** GSAS'86, the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia. He reported spending the spring at Columbia's outpost in Paris, Reid Hall, as a fellow of the Institute for Ideas and Imagination. Barry described his time there as "productive and nostalgic at the same time," since he first stayed at Reid in the summer before junior year, 1975. He is back in New York now, as director of undergraduate studies in art history, and he "would be happy to see any classmates on campus, to tell each other that we haven't changed at all!"

I was sorry to learn that Peter Pouncey died on May 30, 2023. Most of us in the Class of 1977 will remember vividly that Pouncey was dean of the College 1972–76. Dean Pouncey, who taught classics, was an articulate and charismatic leader, and a maverick in the eyes of the administration. As I recall, he made us undergraduates feel good to be Columbians. In fact, I had a course with him (a colloquium, which he co-taught), and now almost 50 years later I am trying to remember who else from our class was in it. The words of Pouncey's that I most remember were uttered in an interview that I did with him for *Spectator*, just before he stepped down as dean. The question was, "What is the worst part of the job?" He answered, "Having your life chopped up into 15- and 30-minute segments." As a carefree undergrad, this did not make much of an impression on me, but years later, struggling with career-type duties and obligations, it came back to me, as a profound truth.

[Editor's note: Read the College's obituary for Pouncey, online at college.columbia.edu/news/peter-r-pouncey-ninth-dean-college-was-instrumental-its-move-coeducation.]

Please send me your latest news, and I'll include it in a future issue. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

1978

Matthew Nemerson
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About 40 of us made it to campus for our 45th reunion on a lovely New York late spring weekend.

While a "to-do" list for fine-tuning the 50th is being developed by many, including **Robert Blank**, **Tom Bisdale**, **John Flores**, **Bruce Steinberg** and others who wrote in, noted later in this column, and led by our unofficial class activity leader-in-chief, **Nick Serwer**, who, once again, made flying in from Singapore seem as effortless as grabbing a drink at The West End (Rob flew in from Sydney, even further, but his hair showed signs of the trip, so Nick gets the prize), the class dinner featured a spectacular opportunity to hear a powerful triumvirate.

We started with Dean Josef Sorett trying to assuage our fears that the College is once again at the mercy of the central administration, then moved on to Hon. **Joe Greenaway**, a sitting Columbia trustee, regaling

GRACE M. REUTER BC'78

Enjoying their 45th reunion dinner on June 3 were CC'78 classmates (left to right) Hon. Joseph Greenaway, Tom Reuter and John Flores.

Left to right, Elliott Rosenstein '81, Roger Rosenstein '71, Lindsay Rosenstein, Jake Levey, Dwight Rosenstein '75 and Fred Rosenstein '78 (father of the bride, posing here with his brothers) at Lindsay and Jake's wedding, held on July 2 at Fairmont Le Château Frontenac in Québec City.

us with inside stories about the selection process that led to the new University president. We finished with dessert and a remarkable "in the room where it happens" review of the situation in Ukraine from Ambassador **Chris Dell**, whose insights on Putin, NATO and the history of the fight for European peace was laced with the experiences of someone who helped brief the likes of James Baker and Colin Powell on military policy in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Great stuff, and I wish 200 more of you had been there. See the nearby photo, and more in this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct).

I spent much of the weekend palling around with dear friend and 'KCR buddy **Tom Mariam**, who notes, "I am proud to report that my son Michael graduated [this past spring] from Emory University with distinction. Sitting at his commencement ceremony made me feel like I was still sitting at ours yesterday, even if it was 45 years earlier."

Tom added, "Thinking about what one thing that surprises me the most about the last four decades, as a media guy, I have to say the iPhone. Columbia did not prepare me for the possibility that everything I needed to know or have would fit in my pocket!"

Timothy Burnett, who was a close friend during his time in New Haven in the 1990s writes, "After I graduated, I did English major stuff, taught and worked in publishing, and eventually became an architect working for years, before going back to school in 2014, this time to become a nurse!

"Health care has been interesting, especially in Los Angeles, where I live near my son and his family. I dote on my grandson, Colin (5), and enjoy Mammoth Lakes, a ski area. I have now successfully taken up fly fishing in the Eastern Sierras. I was in Thailand last fall and almost saw our humble scribe in New Haven. Next time.

"California can be infuriating, but it's beautiful, diverse and has great food. Charms. I'm trying to combine health, architecture and the mountains in some grand project, like a boutique hotel. I've run a bunch of marathons and am thinking about a triathlon. Stop by to visit before the 50th!"

Philip J. Vecchio weighs in on things he regrets since graduation: "Why has Columbia chosen to emphasize partisan politics over academics? In the process I think it has alienated far too many alumni.

"In the meantime, we have witnessed a breakdown of Western Civilization in our lifetime due to the abdication of Judeo-Christian mores. To paraphrase John Adams, without these mores, America is ungovernable. Reading the classics was important, especially the *Federalist Papers*. We need to emphasize what Adams wrote, '… to each new generation the virtues without which free societies cannot survive: basic honesty, integrity, self-restraint, concern for others and respect for their dignity and rights, civic-mindedness, and the like.'"

From **Robert Muirhead** comes news: "I fully retired from my career in finance a year ago last February and have filled the time since traveling with my wife, Susan, to some beautiful destinations including Alaska, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and most especially our lake house in Northwestern Rhode Island. I take great joy in watching the five grandkids swim, fish and kayak around our little cove.

"Wish I had been able to attend the 45th and miss laughing with everyone about the onset of late middle age and the aches and pains that accompany it. I've already had both a knee and a hip replaced and find it takes longer to hike the trails in Zion than it used to.

"I'm grateful to my time at Columbia for arming me with the critical thinking skills necessary to cut through the dangerous nonsense spewed out on the various social media platforms."

Victor Leong writes, "My daughter Hunter graduated from Elon University and is moving to Washington, D.C., to work at PwC. My youngest son, Max, graduated from high school and headed to NYU in August. So, at last I am an empty nester, in my mid-60s. What a ride it has been!

"Looking forward to participating in our 50th reunion. I would say we were very fortunate to attend Columbia and we are very lucky to be in good health to attend reunion. Looking back, I would say the greatest social change I've seen would be the degree of racial diversity in our civic institution and yet my greatest disappointment would be the continued resistance to racial acceptance in our society. My greatest fear is that we are heading toward embracing fascism."

And we close where we began, with some notes from **Chris Dell**: "It was great to see folks at reunion, and even though I retired from the State Department 10 years ago, I seem unable to escape the gravity field of world events, and Ukraine in one way or the other dominates my life. My wife, Tedi, had left to begin a two-year assignment with USAID in Kyiv. My work with the Joint Chiefs of Staff brings me often to the Army training facility in Bavaria where Ukrainians are being trained. It's quite moving to meet these guys, knowing that it's 'for real,' and they'll soon be very much in harm's way.

"Given the news of our dean Peter Pouncey's 'transition' (to quote his successor) I've been wishing I'd had the chance to study Thucydides with him.

"And consider this, when I got home from reunion, I found Pouncey's novel *Rules for Old Men Waiting* on my bedside table. I have no memory of how it got there or why. But I'm reading it now and finding it more and more enjoyable. It's a novel about writing a novel on WWI, a special interest of mine since I read Vera Brittain's *Testament of Youth* in the wake of a personal loss in the1980s.

"Yes, youth and old men waiting are indeed the bookends of life."

Thanks again for all of the work done by the Reunion Committee, and especially **Chuck Callan**, who took on the role of fundraiser for the class and brought in a healthy six-figure total with the support of so many of you. As they say, 'You can't have everything; where would you put it?' but all things considered, reunion was just fine.

Go to this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to read notes from **Joel Levinson, Jonathan Freedman, Amittai Aviram** and **Ted Farone**.

1979

REUNION **2024**
MAY 30–JUNE 1
Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Robert C. Klapper
robertklappermd@aol.com

After managing the supply chains of several consumer electronics/semiconductor companies, most recently Lam Research, **Rich Witherspoon** retired in April 2022.

Since graduating, and making several corporate relocations, Rich has finally settled on the West Coast in San Jose. He has been married for 37 years to Betsy and has two daughters and two granddaughters. With all his spare time, Rich is a frequent traveler and continues to work on his golf game. Look him up when you're in the Bay Area (richwitherspoon@gmail.com).

Robert C. Klapper: "Today's Columbia thought comes from a visit to my orthopedic surgery office by an injured skier. Unfortunately, this young lady tore her ACL, but what made the MRI finding significant to me was the subtle changes seen in the bone after a ligament injury. In this modern day, 45 years since we entered the College, I'm here to tell you that all of the X-rays, CT scans and MRI studies are no different than they were our freshman year. What I'm saying is the beautiful world of radiology — as an ortho surgeon, I'm dependent on it — still uses black and white imagery. Can you imagine in this world of artificial intelligence I am still trapped in a radiological world that is still black and white? What's fascinating and where the magic of medicine happens is in those shades of grey, and in the subtleties of a bone contusion, bone edema, stress fracture and the occasional patient who thinks they have arthritis or tendinitis, and I must tell them, 'No, this needs a biopsy because I'm worried about cancer.' All of these special cases come from reading deeper into that black-and-white study.

"You might now ask, what does this have to do with our years at the College? My Columbia thought comes from our yearbook. We as a class were so fortunate to have Steven Gerst '81, VPS'86, PH'87, not even a member of our class but who decided we, the Class of 1979, should have a yearbook to remember what life was like on Morningside Heights. I suggest, if you haven't looked at the yearbook in a while, as we get closer to our 50th reunion, that you dust off the old hardcover and take a look because the editorial expertise that Steve used was in a section called "A Day in the Life," where he had photographer Arnold Browne '78 document in black-and-white photographs a 24-hour period in 1979 at the College.

"There is one photograph that reminds me of that unfortunate skier's MRI, where, sadly in 2023, knowing that her anatomy is actually bright colors, the yellow of the fat, the red and purple of her blood vessels — to coin a phrase, we are in Living Color, despite the black-and-white study — those subtleties that I must see in the shades of grey are similar to me when I look at the black-and-white photograph in our yearbook of the Greek waiter at Tom's Restaurant, mouth open, with an Athens accent saying 'tuna fish' to the student at the counter. It might be a black-and-white still photograph of a world that is moving and in color, but I would argue there is more information in that picture and the mind games you must make bring it more to life than if it was shot in color.

"How blessed are we to have a yearbook that allows us to put in perspective our lives 50 years later? Let me know what your favorite photograph was. Roar, lion, roar."

1980

Michael C. Brown
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

"Don't you love New York in the fall? It makes me want to buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address."
— *Nora Ephron,* You've Got Mail

The Columbia Alumni Association elected new board members; it's nice to see our class represented by **Lanny Breuer** SIPA'84, LAW'85, super lawyer and a 2020 John Jay Award recipient. Lanny was named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America, giving this bio: "Lanny A. Breuer is the vice chair of the law firm Covington and one of the leading trial and white-collar defense attorneys in the United States. He specializes in helping clients navigate financial fraud, anti-corruption, money laundering, securities enforcement, congressional, environmental, and other criminal and civil investigations presenting complex regulatory, political, and public relations risks."

Congratulations to **Dennis Costakas** on starting a position as medical chief of staff at the Mayo Clinic Health System. Given the size and scope of the Mayo Clinic, Dennis will have his hands full!

On a sad note, **Matt Kennedy** GSAS'82 passed away the past spring. Matt played lacrosse and majored in history. He had a long and successful career on Wall Street and coached lacrosse through the years. He is survived by his wife, Nichole, and daughters, Anna and Clara. Matt lived a rich, colorful and eventful life. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Drop me a note at mcbcu80@yahoo.com or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1981

Dan Albohn, Kevin Costa and Rich Gentile
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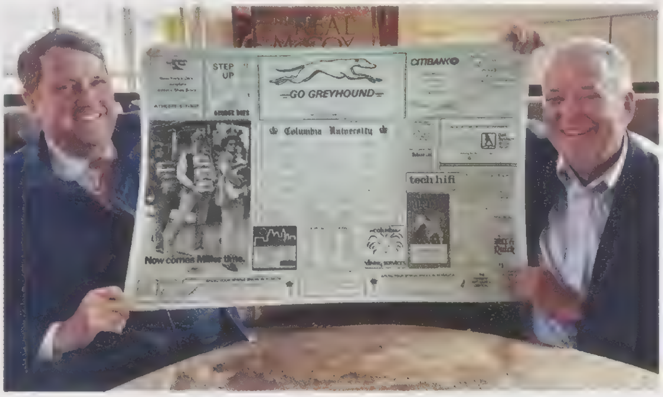
Remember those paper desk blotters that used to appear at our dorm rooms every year? During a recent lively exchange with your correspondent **Dan Albohn, Paul O'Donnell** SIPA'82 (Montgomery Village, Md.) and **Dan Butler** (Wareham, Mass.) recounted stories of their longtime partnership, which started with those blotters (see the nearby photo). The two met in the John Jay Dining Hall during Freshman Orientation and became a team at Columbia Student Enterprises. Paul remembers CSE as an "umbrella for student entrepreneurship," which included the Columbia Bartending Agency and the student-run subscription service for *The New York Times*. It was Paul and Dan who conceived, designed, printed and distributed the blotters. The two continued their work some years after college at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and remain friends.

"The desk blotter grew out of a series of conversations between us," Paul recalled. "Dan suggested some sort of advertising agency. He had sold ads during high school in San Diego, and I was working for a small outfit with an office above Madison Square Garden that sold advertising in the sports publications of colleges and universities. The idea of selling ad space held much more appeal than my dreary work-study job at the American Museum of Natural History, where I worked in solitude, surrounded by hundreds of specimens and artifacts, including animal skins, mounted heads and furs — many of which had been donated by President Theodore Roosevelt — along with associated odors." Paul and Dan can't recall exactly how they settled on the blotter, but other schools had similar ones, so they donned their ad sales hats and burrowed into the Big Apple to recruit sponsors.

"Pitching ads was the main part of our job," noted Paul. "We did this every which way, mostly through face-to-face visits to merchants along Broadway, Amsterdam and other nearby locations. But we also hit destinations beyond Morningside Heights, and other sales were made over the phone." They persisted even though "rejection was commonplace and expected," said Paul. "On one occasion, Dan and I were turned down by an optician shop on Broadway. We left the store, discussed what went wrong, and Dan promptly did an about-face and marched back in to give it another shot. I think the store owner admired Dan for his persistence. He ended up buying ads for each of the three years we published the blotter."

"We hit pay dirt early on with a big ad from the city distributor for Miller Brewing that paid for all the printing," said Dan. "Every other ad was pure profit, which was a godsend as we scrambled to make tuition payments. I vividly recall



Paul O'Donnell '81 (left) and Dan Butler '81 met up in New London, Conn., on May 17 for the graduation of O'Donnell's eldest son, Bobby, from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. They took the opportunity to showcase the original 1978 Columbia University desk blotter, which they created and then produced for three years.

ANNUAL
GRIDIRON GALA

Michael Schmidtberger '82 (center) was honored as a "Community Quarterback" at the United Way of New York City's 30th Annual Gridiron Gala, held on May 2 at The Glasshouse. Left to right, his wife, Margie Sung; daughters, Calee SEAS'22 and Mollie '24; and sister, Ann Pagano.

pitching Greyhound at its Manhattan headquarters. The problem was it didn't have a ticket agency in the Columbia vicinity. I asked if that was the only reason he wouldn't buy space, and the guy said, 'Yup.' That was the day the Columbia Bus Ticket Agency was born!"

Paul recalls "visiting the 'printing district' in the 30s on the Lower West Side. There was a wide area of large-scale production shops that did the printing for large Broadway posters and much more. We presented the blotter concept and discussed color, typeface, thickness and absorbency of the paper, size, cut and more. The blotter was an easy job for them."

Paul extolled Dan's entrepreneurial streak. Some of our readers will recall going to Bermuda on one of the trips organized by Dan, or perhaps having their hair cut by Dan in his John Jay dorm room.

Paul and Dan both fondly recall Eugene Kisluk Jr. '71, GSAS'91, director of CSE, who took great interest in their work. Paul recalls Gene as "a wonderful and intriguing guy, with a slight Polish accent and an impish grin. The CSE gig seemed more a placeholder job for him. He was a scholar with a history Ph.D. from Columbia, and his primary occupation was as an appraiser of rare books and manuscripts." Gene died in 2018. Dan remembered that he "tolerated my incessant, irreverent teasing, and he loved Paul's big personality, endless optimism, and infectious laugh. I'm so sorry he's gone. He's one of my Columbia friends I would so much enjoy sharing a beer with today."

Another early supporter of the Butler-O'Donnell team was Roberta Campbell TC'69, the assistant dean of residence halls. Dan remembers her as "the 'keeper of the keys' to reaching the audience. Without her, we couldn't distribute 10,000-plus blotters directly to students. She granted us access before students arrived for the Fall semester, 1978. We hand delivered across the main campus, and with Roberta's assist, also to dorms at Barnard, Teachers College and beyond." Upon entry, residents found the blotters, also known as desk pads, which bore the advice, "Use this pad to cushion your gouged desktop or to cover a barren wall and brighten up a dingy room."

"The blotter appealed to advertisers," said Dan, "because it remained on students' desks." Mostly. Some blotters were turned into props for card stunt sections at football games at Baker Field. (Now rare, card stunt sections date back to the Cal-Stanford game in 1908. Often at halftime, the student section of the crowd would flash cards on cue, typically coordinating with the marching band and cheerleaders.) And "later one Spring semester, the quad (Livingston, Hartley, John Jay) erupted in an unaccountable nighttime frenzy with students yelling and throwing everything imaginable out their windows — books, food, fixtures and other sundry items. Some fashioned their blotters into large airplanes and sailed them into the quad. The following day, the quad looked like a war zone, with blotter airplanes among the piles of wreckage," said Paul.

Paul and Dan published three annual blotters but can't recall if anyone continued the effort. Securing ads for the second and third iterations was much easier. "We made a point," Paul said, "that after a store owner bought an ad, to send students to that establishment and tell the owner they had seen the ad in the blotter. That always worked and gave us a high percentage of repeat customers."

Paul, who also played on the freshman basketball team, is now senior marketing and communications principal for national security at MITRE Corp., following 20-plus years with NCIS. He came to NCIS at the encouragement of Dan, who at the time was deputy assistant director. Dan soon left NCIS for a career spanning special investigations and intelligence with the Air Force and Coast Guard, from which he is now retired.

During their short overlap at NCIS, Paul and Dan talked about the possibility of a television show featuring NCIS and its unique mission, even though it was, Dan said, "a tiny, backwater governmental agency." After Dan moved on, Paul kept the idea alive and reached out to Hollywood. The rest is history. Now entering its 21st season, CBS Television's *NCIS* franchise is going strong and retains a huge following. Dan credits Paul, "who was relentless in his marketing of the concept within the agency and to producers. No one heard of NCIS until Paul made it a household name."

Dan joined Paul, his wife, Robin, and the entire O'Donnell family in May in New London, Conn., to celebrate the graduation of Paul's eldest son, Bobby, from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Perhaps a tear or two was shed — and if so, we're sure that Paul and Dan were ready to blot them.

1982

Andrew Weisman
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Greeting, gents! As I draft this note we have just passed the longest day of the year, i.e., the Summer Solstice, not the last Saturday you spent with your in-laws.

On a personal note, on July 8, my daughter Isabelle married Dr. James Busch at the Woodstock Inn & Resort in Vermont. I don't have a lot more detail than that, as I was technically a non-voting member of the finance committee. My wife told me it would be awesome.

This period we received a heartwarming update from the good Dr. **Jeffrey Lautman**.

"Teri Heubner BC'81, BUS'84, floor counselor of 3 Furnald, room 315, and Jeffrey Lautman, room 301, were married 39 years ago by Rabbi Charles Sheer, whom we still see when we visit Riverdale. Jeffrey owns a nephrology group practice in Cleveland and Teri has been running it. We have been fortunate to have had a successful marriage and business partnership all this time.

"We are blessed to have four children and 10 grandchildren, G_d willing going on number 11. Our children live in Florida; Silver Spring, Md.; and soon Raanana, Israel.

"We started ballroom dancing when we were at Columbia and continue to this day.

"Jeffrey gives several classes on weekends at the local synagogue and is active in the distribution and upcoming documentary *999*, about the first transport to Auschwitz concentration camp, of which his mother was prisoner number 48.

"Teri is the glue that keeps everything together, and I still have a crush on her.

"Thank you, Columbia, for my education, and a wonderful experience with friends and my wife!"

What a wonderful update, Jeff. I'm now 37 years into my marriage to my Barnard sweetheart. Since you have more experience in these matters than I, I'll be coming to you for advice.

Sending in an update this period, on behalf of **Mike Schmidtberger** LAW'85, is our kind and responsible classmate attorney **Steven Koppel:**

"Mike Schmidtberger, chair of the Executive Committee of law firm Sidley Austin, was honored as a 'Community Quarterback' at the United Way of New York City's (UWNYC) 30th Annual Gridiron Gala, the organization's annual event hosted with the New York Giants and the New York Jets. The gala was held on May 2 at The Glasshouse with more than 900 members of the business, NYC government and not-for-profit communities in attendance.

"Mike was recognized among this year's honorees for continuing 'to support UWNYC's community initiatives and provide resources that make a real difference to children and their families across the five boroughs."

The other 2023 honorees were CEO of the Brooklyn Public Library Linda E. Johnson, chief operating officer of BMO Capital Markets Brad A. Rothbaum, Jets defensive lineman Solomon Thomas and Giants placekicker Graham Gano.

Mike has been a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of New York City since 2016. **Joe Cabrera**, a vice-chair of the board and a co-chair of the gala, introduced Mike, and arranged for “Roar, Lion, Roar” as Mike’s walk-on music. In thanking the Jets and Giants for their long partnership with UWNYC, Mike quipped, “While I am honored tonight to be called a quarterback, let us be honest — in every photo op, I look like the water boy!”

Also in attendance were Mike’s wife, Margie Sung, and their daughters, Calee SEAS’22 and Mollie ’24; Lisa Carnoy ’89, a former co-chair of Columbia’s Board of Trustees; New York City First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright ’90, LAW’94, previously UWNYC president and CEO; Columbia football coach Al Bagnoli; and Sidley partners Brian Krisberg ’81, LAW’84 and **Steven Koppel**.”

Such wonderful news! Anyone who has had the chance to get to know Mike knows how well deserved this is! See the nearby photo!

Also checking in this period is retired attorney turned educator **Edward Harris** GSAS’89, LAW’95.

“I recently finished my 16th year of teaching at The Kinkaid School in Houston, following my retirement from practicing law. I’m excited to be sending two of my best students to Columbia, Kate Consoli ’27 and Jessica Fu SEAS’27. While Kate is undecided on her major, based on her outstanding performance in my classroom, I’m encouraging her to continue studying economics. Kate was a key player on Kinkaid’s nationally ranked field hockey team, and she will be a tremendous addition to the Lions’ field hockey program. Jessica will major in computer engineering and applied physics. Columbia is fortunate to welcome Kate and Jessica to campus this fall, and I’m thrilled they are joining the Columbia family.

“Roar, Lion, Roar!”

Ed’s commitment to education is quite inspiring and a great use of a Columbia education!

Gents, I do have some sad news. Lourdes López BC’80 wrote to let us know of the passing of her husband of 31 years, our esteemed classmate **Victor F. Lopez.** Here is the obituary she provided:

“Victor F. Lopez, systems analyst, New York City, on October 30, 2022. Victor was born in the Dominican Republic and grew up in Columbia, Mo., Rochester, N.Y., and Danbury, Conn., where Victor’s father trained and worked as a neuropathologist. A lifelong student and avid reader, Victor’s passions included coding, family trips to Europe and Latin America, long bicycle rides in and around Manhattan, preparing elaborate meals and being a father to Amanda, now a second-year medical student. Victor is survived by his extended family; his daughter, Amanda; and his wife of 31 years, Lourdes López BC’80.”

Victor will be very much missed.

Last but not least, **Eric Laursen** SIPA’84 checked in to mention his recently released book.

“My latest book, *Polymath: The Life and Professions of Dr. Alex Comfort, Author of* ‘The Joy of Sex,’ was to come out at the end of August. Most people remember Comfort for his 12-million-copy international bestseller, one of the most recognized titles in the history of publishing, but he was much more than that one book suggests: a British biologist, gerontologist, poet, novelist, anti-war and anti-nuclear activist, phenomenologist, public intellectual and one of the most influential anarchist thinkers of the postwar decades. Working on this book has been great fun: an adventure and a fascinating excursion into 20th-century history as well as a remarkable mind. I’ll be touring in support of publication this fall.

“I live in Buckland, Mass., one of the Massachusetts Hilltowns, with my wife, Mary V. Dearborn GSAS’84, and our pesky parrot, Lucas. I write for a living as well as for my own satisfaction: journalism, research reports and surveys, webinars, video projects, conference programming and the occasional book review. July 4 this year was be a bit of a CC reunion, with Jesse Nahan ’81, **Nick Romanenko** and Ian O’Brien ’87 among our guests.”

Very exciting news! Looking forward to grabbing a copy of Eric’s new book!

Keep those notes coming in! You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the “Just Married!” section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Rich Garden ’83 (left) and Brad Gluck ’83 met in Huntington, N.Y., on February 4 to commemorate 56 years of friendship.

1983

Roy Pomerantz
bkroy@msn.com

Our 40th reunion, held June 1–3, was attended by more than 75 classmates and was a huge success. **Jeff Walker** hosted a “Freedom and Citizenship: The Core Beyond Campus” event in his office, featuring Professor Roosevelt Montás ’95, GSAS’04, senior lecturer in American studies and English, and former head of the Witten Center for the Core Curriculum. **Andy Gershon** hosted the cocktail reception at his home. **Carl Birman** and **Dante Alencastre** represented our class in the panel “LGBTQ+ Activism at Columbia in the Early ’80s.” **Mark Momjian** was the master of ceremonies for the Saturday dinner speaker, Professor Kenneth Jackson. I have a backup of notes now that will be included in the next few issues.

Robert Kahn: “The week before reunion, eight old friends from the Class of ’83 rented a house in Upstate New York for a pre-reunion reunion. We hiked, swam and played tennis, and prepared and ate gourmet meals. There might have been some drinking involved, as well. It was a blast seeing old friends and celebrating our friendships. The attendees were me, **Bob Gamiel, Bob Montay SEAS’83, Bruce Robertson, Marty Avallone, Paul Saputo, Mark Darlington** and **Simon Hall.**”

See the nearby photo, as well as a bonus one in our column online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Thomas Holoka: “I ran into **Mike Pagnani** and Mike Fortine ’85 at the Columbia-Georgetown football game in September.” See the nearby photo!

Mark Darlington: “I moved from Redding, Conn., to Aiken, S.C., in 2020, mainly because my wife, Eileen, has three horses, and taking care of them during Connecticut winters wasn’t much fun. Since I know practically nothing about horses, I told her there had to be lots of tennis courts and players in Aiken. Fortunately, check and check! I usually play tennis four times a week, and practice Bikram yoga in a 105-degree room twice a week.

“I have many fond memories of Columbia College. Most of them involve doing things with classmates that shouldn’t be repeated (at least not in writing), but here are a few that can be published:

“Rowing in the tanks under Low Library; taking the 1 train to Baker Field at 5:30 a.m. for crew practice; working for the Office of the General Counsel, which required traveling all over (and exploring) New York City; singing with the Glee Club at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center; traveling with the Glee Club to New Orleans to sing for Columbia alumni; going to Koronet Pizza for ‘The Big One’; and throwing peanut shells on the floor at The Third Phase.

“Memorable professors: John Kender (the one to blame for my current profession), Jonathan Gross and Joseph Traub GSAS’59, professors of computer science; Genevieve Cerf SEAS’86, professor of electrical engineering; Niels Ostbye, associate in the Music Performance Program; and Karl-Ludwig Selig, professor of Spanish and Portuguese.

“My wife and I are partners in Trilogix, an IT consulting company. We travel back to the tri-state area often to visit family, friends and customers. Unfortunately, there are few (if any) direct flights from nearby Augusta or Columbia airports, so we need to go to Charleston, Charlotte or Atlanta, all two and a half hours away.

"I stay in touch with **Marty Avallone, Bob Gamiel, Simon Hall, Joe Harary, Robert Kahn,** Mike Melkonian '84, **Bob Montay SEAS'83, Bruce Robertson, Jon Ross** and **Paul Saputo,** and was looking forward to seeing many more in early June [at reunion]!"

Howard Guess: "Dawn's rosy fingers pull back the night's black velvet curtain to welcome the new day as days turn into years and we strive forward post-graduation. It's hard to believe that four decades have passed so quickly.

"Becky and I attended this year's swimming homecoming in January, against Brown. We enjoyed ourselves, but it was weird sitting in the stands as opposed to poolside. She got to see the campus, where so many of my shenanigans occurred. We are considering a 21-day river cruise from Amsterdam to Bucharest next year.

"We sold our California house two years ago and are in the middle of extensive renovations and remodeling of our historic 18th-century Pennsylvania homestead. We are currently living with my mother in my childhood home in New Jersey but later this year will be back in our home once all the work is finished.

"My mother's dementia has progressed and her needs related to the activities of daily life have increased exponentially. She needs residential care as opposed to home care with me as caregiver.

"Our family has bounced back and forth from California to Pennsylvania and New Jersey for the last two years. While it has been the 'best of all possible worlds' in some ways, it has also been absolute insanity. It is well past time to settle down in one place and, to paraphrase Voltaire's *Candide,* 'just tend the garden.'"

Peter Fumo: "I am a nephrologist in Philadelphia and am chair of medicine at Temple Health-Chestnut Hill Hospital. I have become a huge listener of podcasts covering history, politics, current events and sports. I stay in touch with **Andrew Botti** and Rich Rodriguez '84, GSAPP'87. I absolutely treasure the time I had at Columbia and really appreciate the Core Curriculum. I am hoping my son Matthew goes there. He will be graduating from high school in 2024. My favorite professor was Ron Breslow. I also have twins, Peter and Julia, in their freshman year of college. Julia wants to follow in her father's footsteps as a physician."

Robert S. Drew: "I live and teach in Michigan with my wife, Amy BC'84, and with two wonderful children nearby: Charlotte (27) and Daniel (25). Still in close contact with **Bill Carney** and **Darren Staloff.** Recently finished revisions on my second book, *Unspooled: How the Cassette Made Music Shareable*, in production. Still enjoy swimming and basketball, weekend crosswords and most recently, singing with a grandpa rock band in Midland, Mich."

Brian Jones: "It's hard to believe that it has been more than four decades since we were in Inmaculada Dobkin's (de los Habsburgos) Spanish class together."

The week before Columbia Reunion 2023, eight old friends from the Class of '83 rented a house in Upstate New York for a pre-reunion reunion. In attendance were Robert Kahn '83, Bob Gamiel '83, Bob Montay SEAS'83, Bruce Robertson '83, Marty Avallone '83, Paul Saputo '83, Mark Darlington '83 and Simon Hall '83.

Victor Cha: "... is vice dean and professor at Georgetown University. He is serving a term on the Biden administration's Defense Policy Board, and has a book that came out in June, *Korea: A New History of South and North.*"

Frank Messina: "I had every intention of going to our 40th reunion; I have never attended any reunion. Life got in the way. A long way of saying, please continue to keep me posted, and I will make it to a reunion although it might not be a milestone, like this one was, in the near future."

Love to all, everywhere!

1984

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
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Development Contact
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Dennis Klainberg
dennis@berklay.com

Paul Schwarzbaum: "I lead an aviation ground support equipment manufacturer, Tronair. My son Ezra Schwarzbaum '20 is pursuing an M.B.A. at Wharton starting this fall, and my daughter Dalia graduated this past May with a B.S. in architecture from the University of Michigan; she started in September at an architecture firm in Bangkok. My wife, Bea, and I are looking forward to taking several trips back East and farther East to visit them and other family."

Doug Mintz VPS'88 and his husband, Lloyd, live happily in New York, even more so now that their son Nilson is now gainfully employed at Bank of America/Merrill Lynch — and out of the house! With our 40th reunion less than a year away, Doug looks forward to attending and could even be persuaded to play a part on the Reunion Committee. Let us not forget his most gracious hosting of our class' 30th at their East side home with honoree Karl-Ludwig Selig holding court. (Pictures available on request!)

Glenn Ramsdell: "Hi from Seattle, where I've lived for eight years. While distant from Morningside Heights, I return often to happy memories of time spent on campus, especially with the fine singers of the illustrious Glee Club (**Dan Berick**, Ari Brose BC'84, Cathy Cotton BC'83 and Harvey Cotton '81, **Jon Abbott**, Beth Knobel BC'84, David Lyle '83 — the list goes on and on!); fellow English majors (notably **Rob Rubinson** and the most holy reverend **Robert M. Zecker** GSAS'85); and various gourmands who also frequented Professor Pizza. Life since '84 seems never to have slowed. Currently, we're renovating a 1904 house on Volunteer Park, which is quite the 'adventure,' as anyone who's lived through such a project would know all too well. If you're ever in the Pacific Northwest, please say hi!"

David Gormley — residing in Pittsburgh with his wife of 25 years, Siti Nurbaida — says hello to all classmates and is pleased to report that his older son David William, Allegheny College Class of 2024, has been named a Distinguished Alden Scholar and majors in computer science, and his second son, Daniel, was named All-WPIAL, All-State in soccer and All-State Choir, and has received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for the Class of 2027 and reported for R-Day on June 26. Another view of the Hudson.

See you all at Homecoming 2023!

El Gray: "Our daughter Kyra is now a Lioness, having joined the Business School Class of '25 this fall."

Kenny Tung LAW'87 recently started as the independent outside compliance monitor for a multinational company in China. Separately, he has also commenced as an advisor to an international law firm in developing business opportunities to serve clients in special situations. Kenny continues to work with lawyers and adjacent sectors in finding and implementing strategic framework and applications in the space.

David Prager Branner: "In brief, during the last academic year I spent about six months in New York, preparing to donate the archive of my late father, Robert Branner (1927–73) to Columbia. He was a specialist in French Gothic architecture. Preparation involved detailed inventorying of his work — a real slog — but the archive is now in Columbia's hands at last, 50 years after his death. Extensive correspondence with two of his senior colleagues is in the hands of two scholars whom I hope will edit and publish the material in short order. There also remains an anthology of 40 of my father's papers in his field, compiled and edited by my mother and a student of my father's, and which I have typeset, for which I hope to have a publishing agreement later this year. Most of my own scholarly work has been on hold during these months."

James Satloff: "Recently seen at the NYC wedding reception of **Stuart Cane** were **Frank Sommerfield, Ron Adelman** and me, all sophomore-year Livingston Hall suitemates, and several as freshman suitemates in Carman. All were in good spirits sharing stories of 40 years past."

Three bits of news from **Mark Binder:** His offspring, Maya Lehrer-Binder '18, completed an M.Ed. from Brown University. And the first two books in Mark's Groston Middle series, *It Ate My Sister* and *The Zombie Cat,* have been released as audiobooks.

Raul Trillo BUS'02: "My wife and I recently relocated to Orlando from Miami. My company, Vyluma, is developing a treatment for pediatric myopia and recently submitted our NDA (new drug application) to the FDA. If all goes well, we hope to be approved in Q1 2024. Fingers crossed!"

Dennis Klainberg: "Last August our daughter Emma Klainberg TC'19 married Daylen Orlick near our home on Long Island. Both are administrators at George Mason University in Virginia. Her 'Irish twin,' sister, Sydney Klainberg, announced her engagement to Charlie Robertson with a wedding set for next July. Sydney is a school psychologist in Middletown, Pa., while completing her doctoral work at Penn State, and Charlie works in financial services."

See you at our 40th in June!

Celebrating at Barry Kanner '85's daughter Pamela's wedding in Israel on June 19 were Elisa Bash BC'88 (née Schein); Robert Bash; Steven Farber '85; Lynn Farber; Michael Bayme; Moe Hartstein '86; Steven Rappaport; Tamar Krongrad BC'85; Kanner, Eve Leibowitz BC'85 (née Horowitz); Kanner's wife, MJ Kanner; David Leibowitz '85; Abby Dishi BC'85 (née Weidenbaum); Kanner's son Benny Kanner; Zia Rose BC'85 (née Jaffe); Roberta Schwartz; Boni Moskovitz BC'86 (née Loebenberg); Barry Schwartz '85; Michelle Avigan BC'85 (née Reiman); Linda Friedberg BC'85 (née Pardes); Tamar Rappaport BC'85 (née Landes); and David Avigan '85.

1985

Jonathan White
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We begin with our judicial branch classmates. **Tim Tomasi** LAW'88 was back on campus in June for his Law School reunion "and was happy to see Tom's and Koronet still up and running with few changes to the menus, other than the prices. We had the first family wedding last summer when my eldest daughter got married on a beautiful day in Maine. I'm in touch with **Barry Ableman, Joel Feldman, Dave Ordan** and Chuck Karparis '84. They help me keep alive the memories of all the great times we shared when we were young."

After a three-year delay from his confirmation by the Senate to serve as a U.S. District Judge in the Eastern District of New York, **Gary Brown** finally got to have an investiture, which featured a speech by Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and performances by a troupe from the National Circus Project. Judge Brown reports that the job is going along well, and his youngest graduated from high school this past spring.

"Perhaps the more interesting news is this," Gary writes "After decades of active involvement in performance magic, in March I was featured on an episode of Penn & Teller's *Fool Us,* demonstrating a trick of my own devise. Did I fool them? Well, I'm not allowed to say, but the performance is available on YouTube (bit.ly/3OhhZS8)."

David Zapolsky is still enjoying Seattle and Amazon, "and taking every opportunity I can get to go hiking in the mountains. I'm about two-thirds of the way to my goal of hiking the Washington State section of the Pacific Crest Trail. My job at Amazon expanded last year beyond general counsel to cover global public policy, which brings me into meetings with government representatives and leaders all over the world. It's a new but fun challenge, and I find it energizing. I'm also energized by the opportunity to work with my colleagues in person again. So no sign of retirement on the horizon for me; I'm having too much fun.

"Like many classmates, I turn 60 this year, and my son Ian '15 is 30 years and 12 days behind me. We celebrated both 'big birthdays' by hiking together in Chamonix this past August along with our extended families. Meanwhile, Ian and his wife, Sophie Mann '15, are moving from San Francisco to Brooklyn this fall, so my wife, Lynn, and I should be visiting NYC much more frequently than in recent years, which is the consolation prize for their move away from the West Coast."

John Poros recently completed his 25th year of teaching at the School of Architecture at Mississippi State University. "My child, Izzy, is a ceramics major at the Mississippi University for Women and in their senior year, after which my wife, Leslie, and I are hoping to retire in Albany, N.Y. I published a book last fall, *Marcel Breuer: Shaping Architecture in the Post-War Era.*"

CC'85 was represented in the Alumni Parade of Classes at Class Day on May 16 by **Serge Ozerov** BUS'89 and **Seth Schachner** BUS'90. Serge had two graduates in the class, Anthony '23, the class salutatorian (off to UC Berkeley for a Ph.D. in statistics), and Max '23, who will join Société Générale in NYC in structured credit. Seth's son, Miles '23, was *Spectator*'s sports editor, and is now a sportswriter at the *New York Post.*

Seth noted, "It was a great day — lots of emotion and pride. My daughter, Liv, is doing great at BU and is in her sophomore year. I welcome hearing from classmates coming through Los Angeles. I'm good, still running my consulting business, and commenting on television about media and tech frequently."

Go to this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct) to see a photo of Serge and Seth.

Barry Kanner is an interventional radiologist at Columbia University Irving Medical Center-NewYork Presbyterian. Just after turning 60 he celebrated the marriage of his daughter, Pamela, to Tomer Porian. The wedding took place in Israel and thankfully Barry (with his wife, MJ, and other kids, Joe and Benny) was able to celebrate with many of his friends from Columbia and Barnard. After the wedding, Barry joined Eve Leibowitz BC'85 (née Horowitz) and **David Leibowitz**, Lynn and **Steven Farber,** and Michelle Avigan BC'85 and **David Avigan** for a side trip to northern Italy, where they retold countless stories from college and the decades since those amazing years. "These friendships last a lifetime!" Barry noted. See the nearby photo!

After retiring from government work in 2017, **Len Genova** decided to pursue his original passion, sports management. "I earned a master's in sport management from Ohio University in 2020, but due to Covid-19 there were no opportunities to break into college athletics so I decided to pursue a Ph.D. I am entering my third year at the University of Georgia and pursuing a doctorate in sport management and policy. I am a TA and teach several classes. It has been both a challenge and blast to get back into the academic arena. The technology part of it has been enormously challenging but the younger members in my cohort have been so kind and always willing to provide a helping hand. I never thought I'd be taking advanced statistics courses at

NO IDLING
OF ENGINES OR
GENERATORS

Kevin Townley '85 (in uniform) retired after 27 years at the Connecticut Air National Guard and was joined on May 6 in Orange, Conn., by Lions football teammates (left to right) John Plaisted '87, Paul Myers '85, Pat Conroy '84, Carlo Bruno GS'87, Dan Upperco '85, Mike Novotnak '85 and Eric Dill '85.

this point in my life, but it has been invigorating. I'm a long way from retiring and look forward to this second chapter of my career."

Kevin Townley retired after 27 years as a satellite communications technician at the Connecticut Air National Guard and brought along a good contingent of the 1985 football team to celebrate (see the nearby photo). Kevin is now a field engineer at Unisys.

After many years scraping by as a substitute teacher and office temp, in March 2022 **Larry Rogers** took a full-time job at the Schenectady County Public Library. "It has meant the world to me to have finally achieved 'professional' status. I work full time, am a California School Employees Association member and have a real retirement to look forward to. This is the future I should have been planning for when I was at Columbia! Of course, I don't remember any of my English professors encouraging me to explore a career as a public librarian. Indeed, I don't remember any of the old-timers (Wallace Gray, Carl Hovde '50, Howard Schless) encouraging me to explore any sort of career at all. None of them ever talked about the rewards of helping others, on or off campus.

"Every day at Schenectady County Public Library, where most of my library patrons are very poor with little knowledge of computers, I go out of my way to help them make the right choice, neither ignore their problems nor treat them with contempt, and treat them the way they should be treated."

Larry also thanked me for reporting on my eye issues. "It meant a lot to me because last September I had a sudden cloud of floaters in my right eye and had to rush to the VA eye clinic for treatment. As it happens, it was just a couple of small tears in my right retina that had to be repaired. But I was really scared. Your story made me feel how lucky I was!"

My eyes are coming along, after multiple doctors/prescriptions. Thanks for the good wishes.

Finally, best wishes to **Tony Pagán** SW'87, who is recovering from a serious fall and has resumed his duties as director of administration and operations at Columbia World Projects during the summer.

Enjoy the rest of 2023! Please reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1986

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Congrats to **Edward Law** on the graduation of his twins from Columbia College! He writes: "Happy to report that my identical twin sons, Christian '23 and Jackson '23, both will be conducting orthopedic research in advance of applying to medical schools, Christian working at Columbia and Jackson at Hospital for Special Surgery."

Congrats to **You Sung Sang,** who also had two graduations! "Busy year for my wife, Jen, and me. Both boys graduated — Brendyn from Worcester Polytechnic Institute; he will be working for MIT Lincoln Labaratory. And Jason from Northfield Mount Hermon School; and he is now at NYU (his mom's alma mater). We were chilling with them this past summer in East Lyme, Conn."

Congrats to **Kevin Toner** on the admission of his son, Namkha, to the Class of '26!

Eric Pomert spent the summer in Newport, R.I., with family and is a semi-retired film editor as he prepares for a new chapter in service by completing a degree in library sciences to work part time in California's great public library system. His latest comedy feature film collaboration (donnaandally.com) with writer-director Chi Cannon was wrapping post-production and has been invited sight unseen to premiere at the Indie Memphis Film Festival. A film project about a great Tulsa Jewish immigrant-turned-philanthropist is now in preparation to become part of an exhibition at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art in Tulsa.

Bob Zifchak had a busy June. Between officiating track meets, moving one daughter in and out of apartments at the University of Delaware, assorted construction and maintenance projects at three houses and the IT service transformation at work, he barely had time to squeeze in the Sweet 16 Party for his other daughter but with a wrinkle in the time/space continuum he was able to get everything done perfectly.

Since Covid-19, I've been spending winters in Miami Beach, and so I took my own advice to look up classmates. I had a great lunch with **Sergio Akselrad** BUS'90 at the Coral Reef Yacht Club in Coconut Grove. Sergio lives in Coral Gables with his wife and three boys. He recently left Goldman Sachs after 25 years and is now at JPMorgan, where he heads a wealth management team. I also had a fun lunch with **Michael Gottdenker** at Sadelle's in Coconut Grove. Michael has had an interesting career path: Salomon Brothers, Revlon, a telecom company in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., heading another telecom company in Maryland for Quadrangle Group, then successfully selling the company during Covid. He and his wife split their time among Coconut Grove, New York City and Aspen. Michael is an impressively skilled pilot and zips around the country by plane.

Let me know if you'd like the list of classmates by city.

1987

Sarah A. Kass
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Lots of news this issue, so we'll start with **Luis Duany** TC'92, who wrote that after trips to Eastern Africa and Argentina, he started a position at CUNY's Early College Program, which supports 20 non-selective New York City public high schools where students graduate with an average of 18 college credits, and many of them with an associate's degree. Luis visits campus occasionally and loves to stay in touch with College classmates.

Omid Arabian lives in Los Angeles and conducts classes in philosophy and mysticism at YOUniversal Center, a nonprofit he founded in 2014. His third children's book, *You Are Everything* (based on a poem by Rumi), is scheduled to be published in November.

Richard D. Simonds Jr. is back living in New York City and has been moved from partner to senior counsel at his law firm, Alston & Bird. In addition, his son Charles Simonds LAW'25 finished his first year at Columbia. Richard is still writing and submitting poetry and fiction, and has had several poems published in Overtly Lit.

As usual, **Magaly Colimon** has some amazing projects going on. Her arts company, Conch Shell Productions, is the recipient of A.R.T./New York's FY24-FY25 New York City Small Theatres Fund, which is made possible with support from the Howard Gilman Foundation. The funding will support its mission to develop, produce and present new plays and screenplays by Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora writers (Instagram/YouTube/Facebook: @conchshellproductions). Magaly also received the 2023 NYFA Queens Arts Fund New Work Grant to support the development of her play *Access Granted,* a mixed-media play with music that will explore a Haitian American woman's quest to heal generational trauma and the impact of immigration.

Creativity just abounds in our class. **Garth Stein** SOA'90 has a new book, Book Two of his graphic novel series, *The Cloven.* He writes, "It's about New World Order conspiracies, billionaire fetishes and mutant goat people who live among the homeless population in Seattle's notorious Jungle encampment."

And speaking of creative people, **Steven Drachman** LAW'93 writes, "I've been married for 33 years to a BC'87 grad I met during Freshman Orientation, I'm the dad of two grown daughters and I've lived in the same apartment for 25 years.

"I was briefly employed in the publishing industry and as a film critic just after graduation, but as of the early '90s I was a lawyer and compliance officer at many financial institutions, with a bit of novel writing when I had time. My 'Watt O'Hugh' historical-fantasy trilogy remains in print, and the podcast dramatization based on the book is still available. Now I'm resting on my laurels. I'm out of ideas! I'm completely retired. I'm a retired compliance officer, retired lawyer and even a retired novelist.

"I'm using my leisure time to scratch some to-dos off the list, like hiking the Appalachian Trail and the mountains near Almaty, finally achieving fluency in French, getting my Brooklyn garden just the way I've always wanted it, learning physics, editing my grandfather's papers (he was an essayist, poet of some long-ago note and Clifford Odets' earliest writing mentor), de-rusting my clarinet-playing, reading the 100 greatest books and watching the 100 greatest movies and visiting every room in the Metropolitan Museum, among many other things. I don't really like being retired, but I like it better than working."

Turning from literature to music, **Farah Chandu** saw **Lee Ilan** at Columbia Reunion, held June 1–3, where they joined the (relatively new) Alumni Choir. Farah said that any alum who wants to sing is free to join the fun, as there is no time commitment involved. "We just organize right before and disband right after," she said. "It's a great way to check in with music friends!" Those who are interested should contact the Alumni Office (ccalumni@columbia.edu), and they will connect you.

Suze Kim Villano sent the following from Indiana: "As the singing community is reemerging this year, I have had the chance to sing more, including *Carmina Burana* and an all-Korean sacred music choral concert.

"I am blessed to still be the administrative director of the Notre Dame Children's Choir. We recently returned from an amazing bus tour to Virginia and Washington, D.C., where the tour choir of more than 30 10–19-year-olds sang in nine liturgies and concerts, including at the National Cathedral and the National Basilica!

"In May, my husband and I were blessed to spend a couple of fun (and tasty!) weeks with our son and his family in Seoul, Korea; Singapore; and Ubud in Bali, Indonesia; and then with my mom's family in Cancún.

"Now, I am enjoying time with our newest (6 months) grandchild, who lives only five minutes away, and looking forward to seeing all three grandkids (and, of course, our own kids!)"

Please reach out to me with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

1988

Eric Fusfield
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Daniel Goldberger LAW'93 was one of many classmates who attended our 35th reunion in early June and enjoyed catching up with other alums. In addition to the scheduled events and class dinner, Daniel and others gathered informally at familiar haunts like V&T and Tom's. See the nearby photo!

Brendan Mernin attended another reunion, this one for the 1988 Columbia Ultimate Frisbee team. "We were national semifinalists that year and ranked number 1 in the country," Brendan proudly recalled.

Shari Hyman reunited with her Carman 9 floormates at the reunion reception. She also joined a small dinner with classmates in Chelsea. Shari wrote, "In 2019 I went to work for Turner Construction and am VP of public affairs. As a nice dovetail, Turner built Columbia's new Business School building, so it's nice to know my connections continue."

Keep the updates coming! We look forward to hearing from you, including any reunion reminiscences you want to share. You can contact me at the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the webform before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

1989

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Emily Miles Terry
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A few months ago I heard from **Isaac Castenada**, who wrote, "In 1999, Maggie Miqueo '93 and I got married, quit our jobs in New York in the law and investment management, respectively, and moved to the Dominican Republic to pursue a business opportunity in the industrial sector. We envisioned a five-year tour, tops. Instead, we fell in love with the country and its people and made it our home for 22 years. The Covid-19 pandemic forced us to rethink the past, present and future and we decided to partially divest from our interests in the DR and relocate to the United States."

Isaac, Maggie and their children, Jacobo (15) and Teo (14), are now in Tenafly, N.J. Isaac adds, "Now our children are where they can enjoy their grandparents, a wonderful local school and easy access to the city. Maggie and I are excited to begin a new chapter in our lives and are looking at various opportunities."

Some of you were lucky enough to join in the V&T vs. Koronet taste-off last April, organized by **Kaivan Shakib** and **Jared Goldstein.** Of the event, Carl Schaerf '88 wrote, "One of the best parts of any reunion is the realization that for all the great people you knew, you missed plenty of people whom you would have liked just as much. Thank you, Kaivan and Jared for a terrific evening." **Kyle Loudermilk SEAS'89** also attended and writes that it was "wonderful" and "low key" and "nice to have a group of folks get together for pizza and conversation." Kyle's son Grayson joined the feast. Kyle writes, "He's my oldest, at 22. He graduated a semester early from UGa and studied for the semester at Columbia Law School while awaiting acceptances to law schools. He will attend University of Texas Law on full scholarship! I am thrilled for him."

Congratulations to Grayson!

Though an official tally of votes was never taken, it was a super gathering that also raised money for a generous donation to Columbia

Tom's
RESTAURANT

Enjoying a meal at Tom's Restaurant on June 3 during their 35th reunion were CC'88 classmates (left to right) Stefanie Katz-Rothman, Jonathan S. Lavine, Carl Schaerf and Daniel Goldberger.

Community Service, a joint mission of Columbia and Barnard. Also in attendance were **Tom Kamber** and his wife, Whitney (thanks for the great pics!); **Steve Metalios, John MacPhee, Donna MacPhee, Stephanie Falcone Bernik, Lisa Landau Carnoy, Roger Rubin, Jill Tannebaum, Jeff Udell** and many more. If you're on Facebook, you probably saw all the great pics, but if you're not, I'd say that the Columbia University Class of '89 Undergraduates Facebook group is a really excellent reason (maybe the only good reason!) to get on Facebook. If you need help finding it, email me and I'll send you the link.

Thomas Dineen also wrote, "Although being a securities regulator at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (aka FINRA) consumes much of my time, I'm happy to announce that I was elected VP of the American Ju-Jitsu Association and chair of its National Standards and Certification Board."

Thomas also founded Defensive Canes For All, a nonprofit that offers self-defense–adapted walking canes and training to seniors, the disabled and veterans, as well as to experienced martial artists who wish to explore the cane's potential as a weapon.

This past spring **Thom Chu** spoke on estate and business exit planning at a Columbia Reunion panel, "Lives in Transition: How to Navigate the Next 50 Years." And speaking of reunion, **Matt Engels** is already talking about reunion planning so please consider being on the Reunion Committee — it's a lot of fun. Our next ugly big number reunion is this coming spring (let's not do the math) and we'll begin getting organized this fall. We'd love any ideas or thoughts and suggestions from our creative class.

Also, can't close the column without another big thanks to **Renny Smith** for writing an outstanding Class Notes column in the Summer 2023 issue. Please contact me if you're interested in being our next guest columnist!

And do reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
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Eric Horwitz still runs the Columbia Career Coaches Network and says if there are any aspiring coaches in the community, please contact him. His daughter, Elizabeth SIPA'23, graduated in the spring; his son, Zach, is a campus rabbi for Columbia; and his granddaughter, Nomi, is often found playing on the grass near Furnald.

Sounds like a full Columbia family to me!

Carol "Kate" Guess will have two books published by the end of 2023. Look for her short story collection, *Sleep Tight Satellite,* to be published in October, and her collaborative poetry collection (co-written with Rochelle Hurt), *Book of Non,* which was published in July.

Paul Estuar recently started as litigation director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California, the nation's largest civil rights organization for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. His work focuses on cases involving anti-Asian violence, voting rights, language rights and labor trafficking. On the home front, he reports, "Both my sons graduated from college in 2022. One is a sustainability engineer for an energy consulting firm in New Jersey. The other is in public health administration, working for a nonprofit in Hawaii that serves individuals with mental illness. I am just so proud and happy that both children are off my 'payroll'!"

Paul also gets together a few times a year with **Ruben Garcia,** a judge in Los Angeles County Superior Court assigned to oversee probate matters.

In June, **Rick Minnich** attended the Moldox Documentary Film Festival for Social Change in Moldova. He traveled by train with two of his sons from his home in Berlin to Bucharest via Vienna. From there, they went by car another five hours to the festival in Cahul, Moldova, near the Romanian border. His film *The Strait Guys* was screened at the festival. It tells the story of a Czech-born mining engineer who dedicated his life to connecting the United States and Russia via the world's longest train tunnel beneath the Bering Strait. This was the first screening of the film in the former USSR. He has another film ready to launch about the Holocaust survivor and presidential tailor Martin Greenfield, a Brooklyn legend. Keep your eye out for *The Presidents' Tailor.*

CC'91 classmates walking in the Alumni Parade of Classes on May 16's Class Day were, left to right, Dr. Sandra Lora Cremers, Patricia Labrada, Michael Camacho and Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
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Greetings, classmates! Autumn is upon us and soon the holidays and the end of the year will be as well! Please keep sending me your news and updates to include in future issues! It has been so wonderful to hear from so many of you!

Laurel Daniels Abbruzzese submitted the nearby photo from Class Day, held on May 16. She walked with Dr. **Sandra Lora Cremers, Patricia Labrada** and **Michael Camacho,** showing their Columbia spirit! Make plans now for next spring to carry the CC'91 banner and join in on the fun! I have participated and it is a really wonderful event and fantastic opportunity to reconnect with classmates!

Thanks, Laurel, for sharing this photo!

Joseph Farca reached out: "Hi classmates. I am excited to share with you that I have been nominated as a candidate for New Rochelle City Council District 6 in the general election on November 7, 2023 (with early voting October 28–November 5).

"I am proud to call New Rochelle my home. It's a beautiful city with a rich history, diverse population and excellent opportunities. I have lived in District 6 for nearly 20 years, and I welcome the opportunity to share my vision for my community and explain why I am the right candidate to represent my district. If you live in New Rochelle or know someone who does, I invite you to reach out to me and help spread the message about my candidacy."

Best wishes to Joe on his City Council bid.

Melanie Jacobs submitted: "I have some belated news. On July 1, 2022, I started a job as dean of the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law. This has certainly been a big transition for my husband, Shane Broyles, my son, JB Broyles (12) and me, but we are enjoying life in Louisville (especially our first Thunder and Derby season). This is a great city to visit, so I hope that alums passing through Louisville will reach out!"

Congratulations to Melanie on her new position! If there are any other CC'91 alums in the Louisville area, please touch base with Melanie.

Justin Kerber reports: "My son Eli Kerber graduated from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis this past spring. He started at American University in August, so I'd love to reconnect with any Columbia people living in the area. Our younger son, Danny, is in sixth grade, and will miss his older brother terribly. We think Danny has some talent for performing musical comedy. He's hoping to get into sportscasting.

"I am very excited that **Chris Front** is now head of school at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis where my wife, Hope, will be teaching. I love my rabbinate at Congregation Beth Shalom here in Indy, especially since we moved in with a Conservative congregation, Shaarey Tefilla. It's working out well for both congregations."

It is so great to see classmates connecting in different cities across the country and around the globe!

Reminder to all that Columbia Homecoming 2023 is Saturday, October 14. Save the date!

Please take a moment to send me your latest news and happenings, and I'll share them in a future issue. Write to me at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos of 750 kb that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum for "Just Married!" as long as a member of the couple — should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Looking forward to receiving more notes and seeing your amazing photos in the next issue!

CCT
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ONLINE
STORIES
THAN EVER!

READ WHAT'S NEW AT
college.columbia.edu/cct

1992

Olivier Knox
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I heard from **Cliff Blaze** and **Ana Castillo Blaze,** who hosted "Gimme Shelter '23," which they described as "a much overdue five-day get-together of CU friends from all over the country. (As an editorial note, Carman 7 1998–89 was well represented.)

In attendance: **Scott Kitzman,** who came in from Illinois; **Will Strong,** who lives in Austin; **Philip Fisher,** local to NYC; **Tom Linton SEAS'92,** who flew in from London; and **Mike Fischer SEAS'92,** from Dallas. Across classes, Chris Beach '91 came from Florida, and Andrew McFarland '91 and Chris Tessin '93, BUS'98 came from Seattle.

Scanlynn Daniel sent a generous Class Notes contribution, and I'll start with the last line: "Shoutout to fifth floor McBain 1988/89!" (If you haven't visited CC recently: The dorms have been reorganized to create a kind of first-year "quad." Furnald and Wallach now house first-years.)

"With the exception of 1998–2000, when I worked in the Middle East, I have been in New York since graduation," Scanlynn wrote. "Although times and the city have changed, I still find everyday magic here and am still very much entranced with the diversity and energy of the city."

Scanlynn was part of "The Great Resignation of 2020/21," leaving a 30-year career in fintech behind in favor of "my dream job" in public healthcare: "an IT system administrator with MetroPlus/NYC Health + Hospitals, New York City's public healthcare system."

She has lived in Sunnyside, Queens, for more than 15 years, currently in a one-bedroom apartment "with my dog, Abby, and my person, Rajesh Bose."

Scanlynn recently went to Jazz Fest in New Orleans for the (Covid-19-belated) celebration of her 50th. "I was in frequent electronic contact with **Dave Kunian;** we were both so busy with our various Fest-related music activities that we didn't meet up in person, but we did our best under busy circumstances to be in regular touch and well-wish." She's also in touch with **Jessy Randall,** a "fabulous poet" and "constant inspiration."

"I genuinely hope everyone is staying well and happy, and holding on to at least a tiny bit of our undergrad wonder and enthusiasm for big questions, community service, and gathering for hangouts large and small 🙂," Scanlynn wrote.

Kevin M. O'Connor recently was part of "a total Columbia U project" as the agent on Jenny Laden BC'92's young adult book "loosely based on her dad contracting HIV in the '90s. *This Terrible True Thing* comes out in September." Daniel Ehrenhaft '93 was the acquiring editor.

That's it for now. Please write in — via email or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note — with personal and professional updates. Anyone able to fill me in on the whereabouts and doings of my Carman 7 roommate, **Ben Weaver**?

1993

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Well, that was certainly something. For those who attended our 30th reunion, the first weekend of June, you know of what I write. For those who didn't? It was a blast, and you should already be making plans for the 35th, tentatively scheduled for (checks notes) the first weekend of June 2028. Seems like a long way away, doesn't it? That doesn't mean you can't mark your calendars now.

Why? Well, because if the 35th is even half as much fun as the 30th, you won't want to miss it. The festivities began Thursday night at the Spiral in Hudson Yards. **Andrew Ceresney** hosted classmates for a cocktail party in his law office. More than 70 attended, and I got the chance to catch up with a bunch of old friends, like **Amanda Aaron; Amy Ahn; Eric Alto; Frank Ballabio SEAS'93; Luis Barcelo; Deborah Cook;** the husband-wife teams of **Dan Gillies SEAS'93** and **Rhanda Moussa,** and **Arthur Weise** and **Kristina Nye Weise; Isabel Kallman; Jacob Kramer; David Lerner; Joel Lusman; Diana Morales-Bories; Kathryn Morris; Steve Rivo; Amanda Schachter; Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard; Andy Schmeltz; Adam Shore; Michael Taylor; Chris Wiggins; Peter Wilson; Jonathan Zellan;** and bestselling author **Brad Stone,** who shared with my wife, Jessica (Dartmouth '03), a charming story about how much he hated me when we met on the pre-orientation camping trip known as COOP. You will all be relieved to know that we eventually became good friends. I even read his latest book, *Amazon Unbound.* Pick it up. It's excellent.

Friday evening, the school-wide event at Chelsea Piers began with a walk along the High Line (something I had planned to attend, but the rainy weather put the kibosh on that), and a little pregaming with old friends **Drew Stevens SEAS'93** and his wife, Ha; **Joseph Calcagno; Allie Towle; Sandra Johnson; Julie Davidson Hassan; Betsy Gomperz; Patti Lee; John Trbovich; Jenny Hoffman;** and **Joel Cramer,** before we all headed over to connect with **Robyn Tuerk** and the rest of our classmates at the rollicking party.

Rita Pietropinto-Kitt arrived with her husband, Tom Kitt '96, who brought a special guest with him. Oscar-winning filmmaker Cameron Crowe, the man behind *Say Anything …* and *Almost Famous,* among others, had no other plans before a Saturday flight home to Los Angeles, so he tagged along and closed the place down with a gaggle of our classmates, charming us all in the process.

The famed writer-director was only part of the fun, though, as a host of first-timers were in the house, showing up for their first reunion. People like **Ruben Fontes, Nkem Okpokwasili, Matthew Mosca, Jason Doolittle** and Andy Blitz '94 all made their presence known, partying like it was 1993 again.

I also caught up with **Ben Besley, Nandita Kamdar SEAS'93, Nick Kottak, Doug Meehan, Seth Pinsky, Joseph Saba, Pete Sluszka** and **Chris Tessin,** many of whom stayed well into the wee hours.

One of the weekend's high points came on Saturday afternoon, at a special panel discussion hosted by our class. Put together and introduced by Reunion Committee co-chair **Alan Freeman,** it was called "Lives in Transition: How to Navigate the Next 50 Years," and was hosted by Dean Emeritus James J. Valentini. Split into two parts, the first featured four classmates who have walked different career paths since graduation, while the second half featured three experts on, well, navigating the next phase of life, just as advertised.

Act One included **Rit Aggarwala**, commissioner of environmental protection for the City of New York; **Jennifer Anglade Dahlberg**, an author; **Diego Hoic**, advisor: innovation and growth, disruption, business/corporate strategy and currently running for City Council in Summit, N.J.; and **Marielena Villar**, associate professor, Department of Communication at the School of Communication and Journalism at Florida International University. Listening to classmates talk about their particular journeys was utterly fascinating, and kept a full Havemeyer lecture hall completely rapt in attention.

Act Two included Thomas Chu '89, "Estate and Business Exit Planning"; Len Elmore, former NBA star and senior lecturer in the discipline of sports management at SPS; and Kavita Sharma, dean, administration and planning, with Columbia's Center for Career Education, all of whom offered wonderful advice on both mid-life transitions and also on how to plan for the future. As retirement age creeps ever closer, it's good to be prepared.

The panel is available online (bit.ly/3rnPgBV). You can't link to it from a print magazine, but you can from this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct). You'll be glad you did.

Unlike the 25th reunion, the weather Saturday night was lovely. Cool and comfortable, it was the perfect setting for the class dinner, once again held on the fourth floor of Faculty House. Essentially a three-hour cocktail party, attendance equaled that of the last reunion (though total attendance for the weekend far surpassed that of any previous reunion, which is pretty impressive for a bunch of 50-somethings, right?), but the fun quotient was even higher.

As folks gathered around high tops and seated at proper dinner tables, old friends got the chance to catch up; talk about marriages and divorces; and talk about children, with some now empty nesters and others just starting their families. It was great to see other compadres, like **Jessie Auth, John Balestriere, Alyson Berliner, Elena Cabral, Tom Casey, Alan Cohn, Kevin Connolly, Christine Coster, Matt DeFilippis, Joe Del Toro, Sean Doherty, Sandra Fahy, Jen Friedman, Addison Golladay, Molly Sellner-Harris, Nina Abraham Lieberman, John Matthews, Carlo Romero SEAS'93, Eric Roston, Sharad Samy, Abe Shahim, Tammy Smulders, Oliver Staley** and **Mar Wolf**, and these are just the ones I spoke to. Plenty of others were there, as well.

The best-represented first-year floor, my own Carman 11, took a group photo that included me, Calcagno, Gomperz, Schachter, **Jill Kateman Glashow, Blake Carter** and **Daniel Donshik** (also making his first appearance at a reunion), and though he arrived too late for the photo, **Lorenzo Wyatt** also attended.

We sang happy birthday to Doolittle, who turned 52 that day, announced that we raised more than $25,000 for the Class of 1993 Rachel Mintz Memorial Fund and also celebrated the fact that **James Mitchell**, mistakenly declared dead by the University at both the 25th reunion *and* the 30th (despite our *repeated* attempts at corrections), is very much still alive. When he stood to acknowledge that, yes, he is still breathing and plans to continue to do so for quite some time, the place erupted.

Of course, after the delightful time at Faculty House ended, we all retired to the Steps, where the band played until midnight, and there was more hanging out, celebrating and catching up. The afterparty at the Dublin House featured a couple dozen folks who were not ready to end the night, but eventually, the proverbial clock did strike midnight (closer to 3 a.m.), and we all went our separate ways, each of us professing our love for each other and the college that brought us all together in the first place.

The weekend was planned by a large group of volunteers, each of whom offered their time to help put it all together, but special recognition should go to my Reunion Committee co-chairs. Along with the aforementioned Mr. Freeman were **Rebecca Boston** and **Antoine Mitchell**, both of whom spent many hours putting together a weekend that was universally loved. We also loved it, and will be meeting regularly to start planning the 35th.

This issue was easy on you all, but since we don't have reunions very often, I'm now going to need you to start sending in your updates. So reach out! I'm easy to find.

1994

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MAY 30–JUNE 1
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By this phase of life, teaching and sharing wisdom is bound to be part of your lives, be it to your children, work subordinates, mentees, athletes, congregants, team members or society at large. Indeed, I'm sure you have experienced the joy of supporting an up-and-comer reach a new height of potential. Or, you have guided someone through a troubled trajectory. Think back: Had a Columbia professor imprinted an endurant impact on your life and choices? Does a quip or quotation from a Lit Hum colloquium resonate in your memories? Many classmates have deployed their research, talent and passionate effort into educating the next generations of doers and leaders. At the University level, **Katerina Harvati**, director of the Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Paleoenvironment at the University of Tübingen, in Tübingen, Germany, will be officially inducted in the German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina, for her contributions to evolutionary science. She was elected a member last year after a series of groundbreaking academic research, multiple recognitions in Germany and decades of grueling work that she deems "fun!"

Tenured UC Davis professor **Joseph Biello** has devoted the last 18 years to teaching applied mathematics and is highly esteemed by his students and colleagues. As an educator with humility and purpose, he is "living the good life." He poses this thought experiment: "What is more painful — raising two teenage daughters, or falling off a roof while doing a DIY project?" Recovered from the fall and shuttling one of his daughters to her competitive swim meets, he researches tropical atmospheric dynamics (wind, waves) and models for thunderstorm feedback on climate and water. As part of his research, Joseph's undergraduates use vortex cannons inside a rotating water tank that serves as a model for tropical thunderstorms on the rotating earth. If you're in the San Francisco Bay area and need some of the best weather you'll ever experience, he invites old friends to visit him in Davis.

Also in California, **Matt Eddy**, a-mostly-born-and-bred Angeleno, is still in Los Angeles, still writing and producing movies with his brother. He reaches youth culture "… in the kids and family space, working most recently with Nickelodeon on the live action *Monster High* features. I recommend them to those with 7–12-year-old kids," he says. Matt has been collaborating with **Mike Jeon** and **Jonathan Mooser** on a new business app that has absolutely nothing to do with kids and family movies. "It's been a nice counterbalance to Hollywood (especially now that we writers are on strike) and a really joyful opportunity to work with old friends," Matt says.

More on **Jonathan Mooser**, who has been living in the SF Bay Area for the last 13 years with his wife, Sara; daughter, Cielle (13); and son, Gregory (10). Until late last year he had worked at Meta (née Facebook) as a senior software engineer. Since leaving that job, Jonathan is expanding his wife's fitness and meditation business and growing the aforementioned startup.

Speaking of Columbians who collaborate, **Matt Wood** and **Marsha Goodman-Wood** have been married since 1996 and in Washington, D.C., since 2001. They contribute to the Class Notes for the first time in a few years.

Matt maintains his position as general counsel and VP of policy at the progressive nonprofit Free Press, where he works on a wide range of tech and telecom issues before the Supreme Court, Congress and federal agencies.

Marsha, a cognitive neuroscientist by training, now funnels that passion into "kindie" ("kids' indie") music. She writes and records fun songs about science and how the world works, with positive social messages. Her third album dropped on September 1, available like the previous two on your favorite music platforms plus on the website for her band, Marsha and the Positrons. Her latest single, "Ghost Forest Investigators," was released in April, and an earlier track, "Hey Pluto" hilariously consoles the demoted celestial body that all of us growing up in the '80s loved as the legit ninth planet.

Matt and Marsha's daughter is a junior at Oregon State and their older son is a sophomore at Wisconsin (a year behind **Elliot Regenstein**'s daughter). Their youngest, a son, started middle school this fall. Matt and Marsha and worked at WKCR, where Matt called the Lions' games, while Marsha sang in the Barnard-Columbia Chorus long before becoming a professional musician and teaching artist.

Fellow art professional **Susannah Rosenstock** chimes in from our neighbor to the north: "I have been living in Toronto since 2007 and am one of the founders of the Toronto Biennial of Art." Susannah is deputy director, director of exhibitions at the festival focused exclusively on worldwide contemporary visual art. "The next Toronto Biennial of Art is Saturday, September 21–Sunday, December 1, 2024. We launched the first edition in 2019. I don't meet a lot of Columbia alumni in Toronto! If there is an alum group here, we'd be happy to welcome them for an event or tour during the biennial."

Brad Zelnick took a moment to describe himself as "a boring, hard-working family man." Hardworking? Yes, he's spent almost 20 years in finance. Boring? No, he's the managing director of Software Equity Research at Deutsche Bank. Family? Aren't we talking about educating the next generation? Even though Plato argues in *The Republic* — we're going back to CC, folks — that family is an obstruction to duty, educating the children in your life is the most important job. Plato contends that children belong to the state and need to be educated by the state to become functional citizens. There is nothing boring about breaking apart that argument. Some people say, "It's what it's all about."

Please reach out if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1995

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I was thrilled to hear from **Marie-Carmelle Elie**, who shared an update from Alabama. I have fond memories of meeting Carmelle when she came to visit my roommate **Kimberly Benson** during summer 1994, when we lived in Rome together.

Carmelle left the University of Florida after spending 10 years in various leadership roles, including as director of emergency medicine and critical care research. As chief medical officer of one of the largest palliative care and hospice organizations in North Florida, Haven Hospice, she led an effort to deliver care in community settings during the Covid-19 shutdown when elderly and chronically ill patients were in seclusion in their homes. Then, the University of Alabama's Heersink School of Medicine in Birmingham came calling, recruiting her in 2021. She became the first African-American woman to be appointed permanent chair, just in time for the second wave of the pandemic, when the vaccination rate was 20 percent in the state.

"In the same year the nation was confronted with one of the largest waves of crowds in emergency departments due to rising mental health, complex disease and trauma," she writes. "I've worked with local and state leadership to propose the funding of a multi-million-dollar expansion of the busiest emergency department in the state of Alabama, supported by Gov. Kay Ivey (R). It's a tremendous opportunity to advance the current innovative state-of-the-art care to more patients in the Deep South."

Carmelle was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Medicine last year for her work in the intersectionality of emergency medicine, critical care, and hospice and palliative medicine.

Her husband, Newton, is a tennis pro coach and instructor with a tennis rating of 5. He keeps their busy family on track. Their three young boys, Nathaniel, Noah and Nicholas, enjoy soccer, basketball, chess and a newfound interest in traveling. "We have been so blessed, and enjoy the gorgeous Alabama hillsides and exceptional food," she writes.

Speaking of eating and drinking, congratulations to Jon Bonné '94 on the publication of his book, *The New French Wine: Redefining the World's Greatest Wine Culture*, published in March.

I connected with **Arthur Kim** on May 16 at Class Day. He and I had the honor of marching in the Alumni Parade of Classes as his son, Ethan Kim '23, graduated; we held the CC'95 banner. Ethan graduated with a double major in film and media studies and in financial economics. He was social chair for Sigma Nu, president of CU Sketch Show and involved with NSOP. Ethan now is an institutional equity analyst within the sales trading division at RBC.

Arthur and his wife, Christine Ku, established the Arthur Dae Kim Family Scholarship Fund to support students needing financial aid to follow their dreams and career ambitions focused on the fine arts. When Arthur started at the College in 1991, he received substantial financial aid and was a recipient of the Leo Blitz Memorial Scholarship.

"Establishing our fund was another way of giving back to alma mater, as my Columbia experience provided me with great opportunities that lifted me from financial insecurity/poverty," Arthur writes. He and Christine have been empty nesters "down the shore" in Bay Head, N.J., since their other son graduated from Morristown Beard School.

Arthur heads healthcare ABL underwriting for Webster Bank, and his family actively volunteers and supports various charities and community causes. Christine is a co-founder and partner of Zoku Salon in Summit, N.J.

Arthur also is an investor in the 116 Street Ventures fund, which led him to connect with Kevin Dailey GS'95, a colleague during junior year (they interned at Smith Barney). Kevin is co-founder and CEO of Remedy Technology.

Thanks to Arthur for this wonderful update!

In June, I left my office on the third floor of Pulitzer Hall after a meaningful year as a Spencer Fellow at the Journalism School. I still felt like a college kid, not wanting to miss anything. I sat in on "The South After Reconstruction" with Professor Barbara Fields, and classes on book writing and podcasting.

I took out more books from Butler Library this past year than I did in five years as an undergrad and (for sure) as a graduate student. In the course of a few weeks, our family moved from the West Side to the East Side, our daughter celebrated her bat mitzvah and I turned 50.

Happy 50th birthday, everyone. Please keep the news coming via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

1996

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Happy fall, classmates!

Khalina Mohammed Khalili writes that since graduation she had been teaching and furthering her studies while living in Saudi Arabia and in her home country, Malaysia. She completed a Ph.D. in Islamic philosophy in March 2021 and is working to publish a book, *Islamic Philosophy of Science from the Perspective of Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas and Seyyed Hossein Nasr*. Last December, Khalina was back in the United States, presenting at an Islamic Philosophy seminar at Harvard organized by the American Society of Islamic Philosophy and Theology. She writes, "It was good to be back in Manhattan and at Columbia, especially while enjoying a mild snowstorm and the festive mood." Khalina offers in-person and online training and a forum on philosophy and Islamic studies through her company, Citra Ilmu Resources, which serves international school students and the public, and publishes a digital newsletter for Southeast Asian teachers, Citra Guru. She asks that interested classmates contact her to collaborate in these areas.

Adam Schweber VPS'23 matched into a six-year physician scientist training program in internal medicine and nephrology. His research focus is in using big data to improve clinical decision making. Adam hopes to integrate into his medical career his training in mathematics from his time at Columbia and his prior work as a statistician at Pfizer.

Ben Ashfield and **Tammy Tiranasar** started a homeschool learning center a couple of years ago, The Village Electric learning center, because they were dissatisfied with their local New Jersey school options. Ben writes: "When we were touring schools for our then–kindergarten-age daughter, we found ourselves asking, 'Why aren't there better options out there? With all the innovation happening in technology and other areas of society, why does education feel frozen in time?' That's when it clicked for us. What we really wanted was a school for our daughter that could combine the best of a private school (a big local community, professional educators, dedicated staff) with the best of homeschooling (curriculum tailored to each individual student). We imagined a place where we could access all the innovation that's happening in education today in a way that was personal, social and affordable. We imagined a supportive nurturing village that could help usher in the future of learning. And The Village Electric was born." Connect with Ben and Tammy at thevillageelectric.com!

Ann Zipkin headed to Pratt for an M.S. in communication design. She worked in the NYC area for a couple of design firms before moving to Westchester and then to Connecticut. Ann is now in her 22nd year of working for herself as a graphic designer. She writes: "I have been fortunate to have had work flowing from different industries through the years, from working in small book and gift packaging, to logos, corporate materials and annual reports, then with Shazi Visram '99, BUS'04 on her Happy Baby 'baby,' and now am working primarily on alumni magazines, admissions and development materials for colleges and independent high schools, and for my husband's company, Tradewind Aviation, a Connecticut-based private charter and scheduled service operator serving destinations in the Northeast and the Caribbean."

Ann and her husband have two sons, one in college at Wesleyan and another in high school at Hopkins in New Haven. In her free time, Ann is a private pilot. She stays in touch with some CU volleyball team members but sadly has lost touch with many. Get in touch if you are around!

Hussein Rashid was a content consultant for the Academy Award-nominated short documentary *Stranger at the Gate*. He writes that he "didn't get to go to the big show, but I had fun watching it on TV like the member of the 99 percent I really am. However, as a board member of the Interfaith Center of New York, I was able to nominate the film to receive an award for fostering interfaith relations."

Timothée Verrecchia is back living in France after 10 years living in New York City and Los Angeles. His consulting business, tv&p, advises clients like Apple, Universal and LVMH on cultural, social and public policy, and has supported artists and nonprofits globally and curated art projects around the world.

On April 21, ColumbiaDC, in partnership with Columbia College Women and the Asian Columbia Alumni Association, hosted "A night at Woolly Mammoth," featuring playwright/director/actor Aya Ogawa '97's *The Nosebleed.* Left to right, Nancy LaVerda PH'86, a ColumbiaDC volunteer who arranged the outing; Ogawa; CCW programming co-chair Elizabeth Yuan '96; and Carol Han '96.

Stephanie Morris has been directing the tutoring company Metro Academic Prep for many years and teaching hot yoga at Yoga Synergy in Fairfield, Conn. Steph has two teens who dance competitively, which keeps the whole family traveling, especially in the spring.

I have a couple of updates of my own. I spent some time with **Mila Tuttle** SIPA'05 at the Society of Columbia Graduates' Great Teacher Award ceremony at Columbia Reunion 2023, at which the College honored James J. Valentini, dean emeritus of the College and a professor of chemistry, with a 2023 Great Teacher Award. Mila's elder son is in his second year at Columbia. I also recently hung out with **Barbara Antonucci**, who was in town visiting from San Francisco. Barbara, an employment litigator, is now the partner in charge of the San Francisco office of Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete. Lastly, I recently had the good fortune to have a splendid meal at Sartiano's, a newly opened Italian restaurant in the Mercer Hotel in Soho (former Mercer Kitchen space), owned and operated by Scott Sartiano '97 (but honorary CC'96er). You should all go as soon as you can. It is truly special.

Have you noticed how robust our columns have been lately? That is thanks to all of you! I really appreciate you writing in, and encourage you to keep the notes coming so classmates can continue reading about all of the wonderful things you are all doing! I leave you with this:

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

— *Maya Angelou*

1997

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Dear classmates, I hope that you are all settling nicely into autumn after having enjoyed a fun-filled summer. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

Kathryn O'Neal writes: "I am a mother, an international finance attorney and an advocate for women's empowerment. My now–24-year-old son was born while I was a student at Georgetown Law, which might explain his love for legislative history but does not explain his love for physics. Since graduating from Columbia, I have gone dancing on five continents, and my poetry has been published in four literary journals. Find my poetry on Instagram @wordsbykathryn."

Bryan Ferro writes: "I am the owner of Ferro Jewelers and am going on 18 years in the business in Stowe, Vt. Ferro Jewelers is a high-end jewelry store specializing in estate jewelry, rare gemstones, luxury brands and custom-designed jewelry. Fellow alumni should stop by the store when they are in Stowe, or go to ferrojewelers.com or @ferro_jewelers_stowe on Instagram."

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I recently obtained my K–12 teacher certification to teach Russian and German in Florida schools. I am working on getting my teacher certification in French and Spanish as well, as I am considering becoming a teacher now that my own daughter (6) is in school.

This summer I enjoyed a fun-filled Caribbean cruise with my daughter. It was just the two of us. Last summer I took her on her first cruise, shortly before she started kindergarten, and after doing it again this summer we have decided to make it our annual mother-daughter tradition during each summer break. Living in Florida near the cruise port, it is the most convenient type of trip for us because it doesn't require us to fly anywhere to leave the country.

One of the things we liked best on the ship was the ice skating rink, where we watched professional ice dancing shows in the evening and then as passengers we could skate during the daytime when there were no shows. We also enjoyed watching a couple of theatrical productions in the ship's traditional red velvet theater. Aside from the ice rink and theater shows, we had fun hunting for rubber duckies that other passengers hid all over the ship, listening to live jazz, stopping in a couple of ports in the Bahamas (CocoCay and Nassau) and daily elegant formal dining (my daughter's table manners are a work in progress, but she loves dressing to the nines for the ship's formal dining room!).

As I wrap up this column, it is late June and I can't believe how this past school year has flown by and how my daughter will be in the first grade by the time we read this magazine. I hope you are all doing well, and please write with updates. We would love to hear from you, even if it is just to say hello.

As I signoff, I will cue the song that we always sing at the end of my daughter's Girl Scout troop meetings while holding hands in a circle:

Make new friends, but keep the old
One is silver and the other gold!

Now that it's been more than a quarter-century since we graduated from Columbia College, our class friendships are getting quite gold!

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

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It's our post-reunion Class Notes! Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend but thanks to a bunch of you on the scene, here's what I've gathered.

Anne Ugarte had so much fun catching up in person with old friends, like her freshman-year roommate **Lisette Camilo** and close friend **Brigit Greeson-Alvarez.** She also loved making new connections with classmates. She got to share the experience with her older sister Rose Ugarte-Gee '93, who was enjoying her own milestone reunion, and her brother-in-law Ron Gee SEAS'91, SEAS'95. Anne is also happy to announce that she's celebrating a new job as operations manager at Bard Press, which publishes books in the business, personal development and self-help categories. She says she's excited for the opportunity and to work directly with books again!

Elizabeth Arbuckle wrote in with her recap of the weekend: "It was wonderful to see familiar faces and classmates! It was a special treat to see two of my Carman suitemates — **Suehyun Kim** and **Julie Yufe.** (**Rekha Reddy,** you were missed!) **Natalie Carlson** came in from Paris, where she does classical interiors for chateaux. **Courtney Strand** is in Bogota working for the U.S. Embassy. **Megan Kearney** juggled kids' graduations and made it down from her home in Greenwich, Conn. **Cheryl Bucci** leads HR at the SPCA and lives in Jersey City. **Joe Rini SEAS'98** and **Alison Rini** came in from Florida; they're excited for their eldest, who has started at Columbia this fall. **Tom Sanford** lives near Columbia and modeled a sample from his shoe contract on Friday night."

Elizabeth added that **Andy Topkins** moderated a TED Talk panel with classmates that was wonderful. The Reunion Committee also thanks **Amol Sarva** and **Matt Grossman** for hosting events leading up to the weekend.

Erwin Dweck wrote with the wonderful news that his daughter Beverly BC'27 started at Barnard this fall! He and his family live in Brooklyn and spend summers "down the shore" in Monmouth County. Erwin is the practice group leader for the Real Estate Group at Milbank.

Congratulations, Erwin and family!

Speaking of real estate, **Scarla Pineda**'s real estate brokerage, Peace of Mind Realty, recently expanded its operations to Long Island and is in the process of expanding to New Jersey. All Columbia graduates looking to buy or sell in New York receive a discount.

Tanya Landon wrote before attending reunion to note that she lives in a small town in the French Alps, close to Geneva, Switzerland, where she is a lawyer for a U.S. firm. Her specialty is international arbitration. Tanya has been married to Bruno (whom she met her sophomore year) for 19 years, and they have two daughters: Chloé (15) and Charlotte (13). Usually when they come to North America it's to visit Tanya's family in Canada, but she was looking forward to reuniting with classmates at reunion.

Many thanks to classmates who emailed me updates. **Camilla Feibelman** lives in Albuquerque, where she grew up, with her husband, Xavier Obando, who is a green architect. She has a stepdaughter (11) and a son (7). Camilla is celebrating her 10th anniversary as the director of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. Before that she was the founding staffer for the Puerto Rico Sierra Club Chapter, where she spent eight years. "It's not easy, but we're just trying to keep this planet a livable place," she says.

Ann Kansfield was also unable to make reunion but does have an update! Ann wrote a book, *Be the Brave One*, which came out in 2021. According to Ann, it's kind of a spiritual memoir but based around the idea that living out our values helps us live more fully. Ann also is a chaplain for the FDNY, which she considers the gift of a lifetime. She says she is also blessed with a wife who's a pastor and marriage/family therapist, and together they have two children: one in high school and one in middle school.

April Henry also emailed a brief update. She's still Los Angeles-based with her partner, Stu, and son, Christian (9). April leads her own management consulting business, Hawkeye Digital, while sitting on several public and private boards.

More than 150 classmates registered for reunion, which was spearheaded by Reunion Committee co-chairs **Sherrie Deans, Matt Grossman** and **Ricky Nardis.**

Thank you for your hard work, Sherrie, Matt and Ricky! Time to save the date for our 30th reunion in 2028! If you have a special update to share in honor of reunion, it's not too late — it will simply go in the next issue! (Reach out to me via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.)

Lastly, please keep the family and friends of **Michele Hyndman-Hodge** in your thoughts. Michele died on May 22, 2023, according to classmates who wrote with the news. In a public social media post, Michele's sister-in-law shared that her memorial service was held on July 8 in Weston, Fla., and that Michele was "an accomplished and fierce lawyer, entrepreneur and an attentive sister and aunt."

Rest in power, Michele.

1999

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
Reunion Contact
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Lauren Gershell
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Happy fall! I was so happy to receive the following professional and personal updates from classmates; please keep the news coming via email or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

After spending nine years in the Infectious Diseases division at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan, my daughter's godmother, **Elizabeth Robilotti** PH'91, moved across the street to join the ID team at the Hospital for Special Surgery. She says she is excited to still be practicing ID at a subspecialty hospital and hopes to only see classmates at reunions and other Columbia events!

Dominique Sasson shared the exciting news that she had a beautiful, healthy baby girl in December 2022, and was promoted earlier this year to director and senior underwriter at Citibank.

Congratulations on both fronts!

In her spare time, **Nina Tannenbaum** has been working with College undergraduates on investment management career exploration, education and financial literacy. She says she was honored to join the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors, through which she will continue to drive the Summer Investment Fellowship (college.columbia.edu/alumni/content/summer-investment-fellowship), a program she created with Kim Lew, president and CEO of the Columbia Investment Management Company and VP for investments of the University, and her staff, and Sherri Pancer Wolf '90, CCAA president, along with support from Columbia College Women. Nina would love to hear from classmates who would like to get involved with this wonderful program.

2000

Kavita Shah Bafana
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No news to share this issue. Please reach out to me with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Jamie Rubin BC'01 and I recently got back from a great trip to the East Coast, where we reconnected with some great friends. We saw **Dina Epstein** (née Levisohn) and her 10-year-old daughter, Talya, for some awesome sightseeing in Boston and Cambridge (including a cameo from Dina's 4-year-old son, Leor). After Boston, my family headed to the Cape. Even though we didn't see her, **Nancy Perla** provided the most incredible recommendations for her favorite local haunts, and **Marc Dunkelman** assisted with his best Martha's Vineyard recommendations! We ended our trip by dropping our younger daughter, Jesse, at the camp bus in NYC. It was such a fun trip — even the less than 24 hours we spent in Manhattan energized us!

This past spring I attended the Citizens of the World charter school gala, where **Marissa Berman** was honored as a founding principal of the Hollywood campus. She holds a leadership role where she is responsible for curriculum and learning for the entire CWC system, with responsibilities across six campuses, serving grades TK–8. I'm very proud to have known Marissa for so many years and to report that both my kids have thrived under her leadership at this amazing charter school in Hollywood.

Ned Benson '01's second movie feature, The Greatest Hits, *is set to be released this fall.*

Marissa and her spouse, Yale (Chasin), "are enjoying Los Angeles life with Tovah (5 1/2) and our new baby, Cy, who arrived in February."

Congrats to Marissa and Yale!

Elisa Tustian is a supervising attorney at Volunteers of Legal Service. She works with pro bono attorneys to serve seniors throughout New York City.

Miles Berger wrote: "I live in Chapel Hill, N.C., with my wife, Miriam, and kids, Isaac (8) and Sylvie (11). I'm an anesthesiologist at Duke, where I spend about one day a week taking care of brain and spine surgery patients in the operating room, and the rest of my time doing research on mechanisms of postoperative delirium in older patients. My group also studies APOE-e4, the most common genetic risk factor for late onset Alzheimer's Disease. Although APOE-e4 was discovered in the early '90s (while CC'01 was still in high school), it's still not fully clear how and why it increases the risk for Alzheimer's. That's what we (and many others) would like to find out, in the hopes that this knowledge could help lead us toward drugs or other strategies to prevent Alzheimer's. Meanwhile, we usually make it back to NYC about once a year to visit my sister, who lives in Brooklyn, and take advantage of the city. Hope everyone is doing well and in good health!"

Jessica Baran entered the Ph.D. program in art history at Washington University in St. Louis this fall. She was awarded the Lynne Cooper Harvey Fellowship in American Culture Studies. "In 2020, I received an Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant for short-form art criticism. And in 2019, I married Nathaniel Farrell '00, GSAS'13, a lecturer in Washington University's College Writing Program."

I heard from writer-director **Ned Benson** with exciting updates: "My directorial debut feature, *The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby*, starring Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy and Viola Davis, premiered at Cannes Film Festival's Un Certain Regard and the Toronto International Film Festival, ahead of its theatrical release in 2014. My second feature as a writer-director-producer is *The Greatest Hits,* starring Lucy Boynton, Justin H. Min and David Corenswet. The movie is set to be released in September.

"I have a number of film projects in development with Scarlett Johansson, including an adaptation of the podcast My Aryan Princess and *Bride.* We first worked together on *Black Widow,* when Johansson brought me on as a writer. My work has been selected for the Blacklist twice. I live in Los Angeles with my wife, Michèle Ouellet Benson."

Best wishes for a wonderful fall … and don't forget to keep in touch with your Columbia classmates.

And please reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2002

Sonia Hirdaramani
soniahird@gmail.com

Joseph Moreno and his wife had their first baby, Sebastian David Moreno, on March 28.

Ariele Mortkowitz lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, David Hain, and their four children. Ariele recently founded SVIVAH - Life in Sisterhood, a nonprofit dedicated to revolutionizing the way Jewish women (broadly defined) come together in community. She frequently thinks back to her days on campus and the feelings of camaraderie and closeness that developed at campus gatherings, leaning on those memories for inspiration in her work today.

Cassie Mogilner Holmes lives in Santa Monica with her husband and two kids and is a professor at UCLA's Anderson School of Management. This year, she published her first book, which is a *Wall Street Journal* bestseller: *Happier Hour: How to Beat Distraction, Expand Your Time, and Focus on What Matters Most.* [Editor's note: See *CCT*'s Winter/Spring 2023 cover story.]

Ginger Gentile recently released the fourth documentary she directed, *Exclusion U,* which premiered at Lincoln Center and is now streaming. The film investigates the business model of the Ivy League and questions if it is using its endowments for the greater public good.

Please reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2003

Michael J. Novielli
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I'm still savoring the great memories from our 20th reunion — it was so nice catching up with so many of you back on campus, and I hope to see those of you who weren't able to make it back to campus for our 25th. It was great to work with **Kimberly Grant** and **Tamar Simon** on reunion, like back in our CCSC days. Kim really went above and beyond to ensure things went smoothly, so I would like to personally express my gratitude here.

On the Thursday evening before reunion, our class celebrated at an alum-owned bar/restaurant on the Upper West Side, ASSET. It was nice to chat over drinks with classmates like **Crissy Monterrey,** who is enjoying her life practicing law in Little Rock; **Jason Paez,** co-founder and CEO of HVN Travel Group (a professional marketplace for private home and villa rentals); **Jessica Macari** (née Slutsky), who is the assistant attorney general at NC Department of Justice, Human Services/Medical Facilities; and **James Thompson,** who is the special counsel for Second Amendment litigation at Office of the New York State Attorney General.

On Friday we enjoyed a panel discussion during which classmates who are crushing it in the arts scene shared about their experiences; the panel was moderated by former senior class president **Kimberly Grant,** and the panelists were Tony-nominated actor, singer, and theatrical producer **Brandon Victor Dixon;** *New York Times* bestselling author **Jill Santopolo** and renowned musician **Michael**

Gallant. I enjoyed catching up after with Hindustani vocalist **Priya Purushothaman** and author and dramatic storyteller **Peter Neofotis.**

Classmates participated in a variety of reunion events during the weekend, but our Saturday class dinner under the tents of Hamilton Lawn was particularly memorable.

Over dinner it was nice to catch up with so many classmates including **Michael Foss, Marva Brown, Melissa Medina, Andy So** and **Mike Chee.** Melissa is a client partner at Facebook and Marva is running in a special election for judge of the New York City Civil Court Kings County.

After the class dinner **Andy So** and I met Jeff Tsai '04 and Ed Yung '04 at the Starlight Celebration and then crashed another class' event at Tom's Restaurant. I also was able to catch up with **Eaton Lin,** who stopped by the Starlight Celebration.

More updates to come in the coming issues. If you're interested in helping with our 25th reunion or have an update to share with our class, please do drop me a line!

2004

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
Reunion Contact
[illegible]
Development Contact
[illegible]

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

Well, the "Best Class in the College's History" (unofficial title) brought the heat this issue, with plenty of updates:

Brian Cabezas and his wife, Grace, welcomed their first child, Hugo, in March. Brian was recently promoted to a program manager role at the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority.

Nhon Ma writes, "I remember my senior-year econometrics class. It was tough. I got free group tutoring provided by CU, but there were too many other students there. I couldn't get the help I needed. This experience, along with countless others, drove me to create Numerade. We recently launched the first multimodel AI tutor. Generative AI has accelerated our vision of scaling the benefits of tutoring to all students."

Annie Pfeifer is an assistant professor in the Department of Germanic Languages at Columbia, "which means I work in the office (Hamilton Hall) right next to my freshman dorm (Hartley Hall) — so many memories! I recently wrote a book, *To the Collector Belong the Spoils: Modernism and the Art of Appropriation,* published this year. I work on 19th- and 20th-century literature, culture and theory, and teach classes on the Frankfurt School, modernism, fascism and fairy tales."

Sophia Beal shares, "I've had a glorious run of visits with Columbia friends. Last summer, Nuria Net '03 and I met in Lisbon. In January, I saw **Anna Bulbrook** and **Emily Shin** in Joshua Tree. In May, Petra Costa BC'06, Himali Dixit '06 and I spent time in New York. If you're ever in Minneapolis, let me know."

Christina Tobajas Schmid and **Logan Schmid** are both in new jobs this year. Christina wrapped up her tenure teaching computer science at The Spence School and joined the CS department at Dalton in September. Logan recently accepted a role at Jane Street, where he'll help develop its proprietary trading systems. The couple, their two kids and two dogs continue to call the Upper West Side home.

Carly Goodman updates us, "I published my first book this spring, *Dreamland: America's Immigration Lottery in an Age of Restriction,* and am enjoying having it out in the world after a decade of research, writing and life in between. In addition to finalizing the book last year, I had my second daughter, Rose (1), who joins Sylvia (6)."

Adie Strickler (née Moll), **Janine Golub** (née Sutton), **Ellen Lowrey** and Kristin Kaderli '03 (née Connors) recently met up in the New York Finger Lakes for a weekend of "a little hiking, a lot of wine tasting and even more reminiscing. After way too many years apart, it was wonderful to be together in person again."

Tara Cornberg (née Posner) writes in, "Friends! How have the years flown? I've been busy as a federal administrative law judge for five-plus years after nine years as an attorney practicing complex civil litigation. My real full-time job and love is raising our three young children, who hear stories of our days at CC. In my spare time I've found myself coaching my girls' youth lacrosse teams, volunteering in our community and hitting up the golf links when I can find an extra five minutes! I carry many fond memories and lessons learned at CC with me daily, as I'm sure you all do. Hugs!"

Colin Brinkman and **Julie von Zumbusch** welcomed son Peter in November. They live in Alexandria, Va. Colin works at the Department of State and Julie is a licensed architect.

And, **Andrea E. Channing Kung Starrett** writes, "Wishing everyone hope and joy in the coming season. Earlier this year, I had my second child, a girl. She's just as cute as her brother was!"

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always great, but please reach out to share fun anecdotes, memories or any other updates! You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Sallie Touma
sallie@salliemathtutor.com

Hi Class of 2005!

For recent births, we have special congratulations. **Tanya Ortiz Franklin** welcomed her first child! **Mike Vary** and his wife, Jaclyn Matayoshi Vary '06, welcomed their fifth, Victoria Elizabeth Vary, last December. **Evette Stair-Radlein** and her husband, Gordon Radlein '06, welcomed baby boy number 3 on June 14.

Kaveh Dabashi and his wife, Caitlin, had an exciting summer road trip planned in France! Kaveh's an employment attorney at Paul Hastings in New York City. He and Caitlin live on the Upper West Side with their French bulldog, Tank, not far from campus.

Rebecca Breheney GS'16, VPS'21 (née Warner) shares exciting news! "After 10 years of dancing professionally, I made a big professional change and went to medical school. I am now in my third year of psychiatry residency at NYP Weill Cornell. My husband, a jazz musician, and my twin 5-year-old daughters, who love to sing and dance, keep me connected to the arts."

In bar association news, **Erica Yen** is president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County this year. The recent 25th Installation Dinner "had California Supreme Court Justice Kelli Evans as a keynote speaker and several other honorees and dignitaries." Read more: bit.ly/44K6xDH.

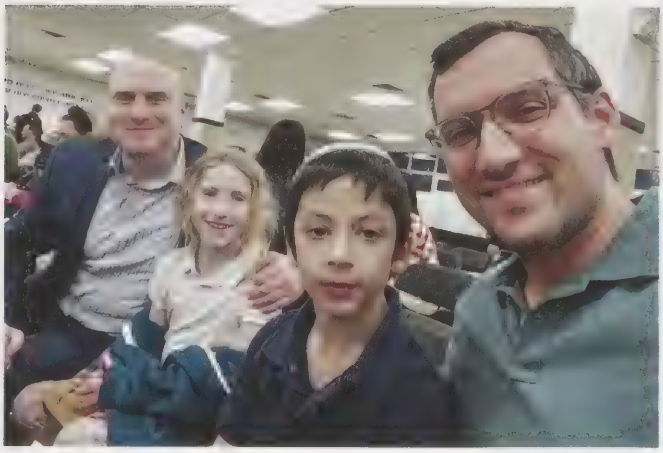
In professional news, **Andrea Cortes-Comerer** started a role as organizational change management lead at IPG Mediabrands. She was also recently named to the Events Programming Committee at the Association of Change Management Professionals.

Alex Dika Seggerman was promoted to associate professor of art history with tenure at Rutgers University-Newark. **Stephen Vargas** lives and works on Long Island as a consumer financial services and real estate attorney. **John de Bary** has a new book, *Saved by the Bellini: & Other 90s-Inspired Cocktails.* It is his second cocktail book and he states, "It should be pretty obvious that it's a cocktail book all about the '90s. It's a healthy dose of nostalgia along with 65 original cocktail recipes ranging from non-alcoholic to hella strong."

Pamela Vanderberg SPS'12 (née Quinlan) shares that after more than eight years of public service at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, most recently as chief of staff, she left government work and launched a consulting company, GQ New Energy Strategies, with former FERC chair Rich Glick. Together, they bring extensive experience and expertise across the energy industry to help clients successfully navigate shifting policy and regulatory environments while unlocking new opportunities to capitalize on the clean energy transition. Pam says that this is an exciting new work adventure while raising her two young kids with her husband, Eric, in Chevy Chase, Md.!

In relocation news, **Anna Lee** moved to Woodbury (Long Island), N.Y., with her husband, Joshua, and kids, Dean, Pierce and Quinn.

As for me, I launched the website store.salliemathtutor.com to brighten up office spaces with art during this WFH era. It was inspired by the MasterClass "Annie



G'osh Berliner '06 (left) and Eric Bondarsky '07 at the Pollution Solutions Engineering Fair in Teaneck, N.J., on March 21.

ERIC BONDARSKY '07

Leibovitz Teaches Photography" during the Covid-19 lockdown.

As always, if you're in NYC, on Long Island or in the Hamptons, please reach out! It would be great to meet for coffee or ice cream and reconnect: 516-368-6001.

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

A very happy autumn and Fall 2023 semester to my CC'06 classmates! Now that I'm coming up on a year back on the East Coast, I'm hopeful to make it to Robert K. Kraft Field for my first Homecoming in more than a decade (Saturday, October 14), and to catch up with as many of you in person as possible. Until then, here are some updates from our classmates around the globe:

Armond Adams married Dr. Elaine Barfield on May 13 at the Lighthouse in Chelsea Piers in New York City. The couple met while Armond was in the College and Elaine was in her first year of medical school at NYU. Though they'd lost touch over the years, they reconnected during the pandemic, and celebrated their wedding with friends and fellow alumni, including **Porter Leslie, Mica Wilson,** Christopher Jones '07, **Marques Torbert,** Amanda Houle BC'06 and **Sy Carbia.** See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Steph Hagio Chin recently moved to Honolulu, where she began a role as VP of marketing for Servco Pacific. After 13 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, she fulfills a longtime dream of returning to her home state and raising her children in Hawaii. From Steph: "Please reach out if you're planning to visit — it'll be great to meet up."

It's been a busy several months for **Lisa I. Speransky,** which includes the continuation of a venture started 20 years ago, while she was an undergraduate! Lisa's company, Ivy Tutors Network, acquired Atlanta-based Alexsander Academy in March. She and her husband also bought an 18-acre property in Wilmington, Vt., where they are developing a unique, contemporary community, Chateau Mooremont, which includes three homes that are each more than 150 years old.

Sam Schon and family have traded in the Texas summer heat for the mountains of Pennsylvania. From Sam: "Give a shout if you're near the I-81 corridor, as we seem to make the drive annually."

Isabel Estrada-Jamison can be found leading a weekly Afro-Cuban Dance class at Rod Rogers Dance Company & Studio on the Lower East Side. She invites any interested alumni to join her on Monday evenings as she guides students through an exploration of Afro-Cuban dances, from the dances of the Orishas to Arará, congo, rumba and the Franco-Haitian dances found on the Eastern part of the island.

Asa Merritt is delighted to share a project of his five years in the making that is now available on Audible. *Six Sermons* is a 12-episode podcast starring Academy Award nominee Stephanie Hsu as a young pastor who must lead a church through a crisis after her predecessor dies. New York theater heavyweight Sarah Benson directed the piece, which also features Bill Irwin and many notable Broadway performers bringing the work of fiction to life.

Congratulations to these classmates on their new endeavors, their unions and their achievements!

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2007

David Donner Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I hope everyone is doing well, and thank you to those who shared updates.

Tom Lightcap and his wife, Amanda, welcomed their first child, Ethan Thomas, in March.

Negar Kordestani shares, "I moved back to the Washington, D.C., area from West Virginia and I am an AUSA in D.C. Superior Court, which is interesting, because it's the only court system in the country in which federal prosecutors handle the state or local side of prosecution. I'm glad to be back home and would love to see anyone if they're rolling through D.C."

Elizabeth Miller (née Epstein) writes, "After many years of city living, **Jonathan Miller** and I bought a house in the suburbs! In August we began calling New Rochelle, N.Y., in Westchester County, our home. Please visit!"

Please send me your latest news via email or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Please read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting your photo to ensure it is eligible for publication.

2008

Bradley Blackburn
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It was great to see many CC'08 classmates back on College Walk for our 15th reunion in early June! A few updates to share — and please send your news or notes for the next column!

Julie Raskin writes with some wonderful personal news: "My husband, Matt, and I welcomed baby Benjamin (our first human baby) in November. I enjoyed weekday walks during my maternity leave with **PJ Berg,** who was also on leave caring for his second baby, Cassie, and was pleased to reconnect with Rachel Brujis '09, whom I encountered at a weekly brewery parents and babies meetup. We awkwardly stared, trying to place each other, until we realized we knew each other from Lit Hum."

Brian Grossman was selected by the Aspen Institute as a fellow for the sixth class of its Finance Leaders Fellows. The 23 leaders of the 2023 class join more than 100 finance fellows around the world who are committed to forging a new cultural paradigm in the finance industry that marshals the industry's global influence to address urgent societal challenges and promote sustainable economic growth. They join a wider community of more than 3,500 values-based leaders in more than 60 countries as part of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

Chas Carey was named town administrator of Brookline, Mass., in September 2022, assuming responsibility for day-to-day operations of a community of more than 63,000 residents with an annual budget of more than $400,000,000. He is the fifth, and youngest, person to hold the position since its creation in 1943.

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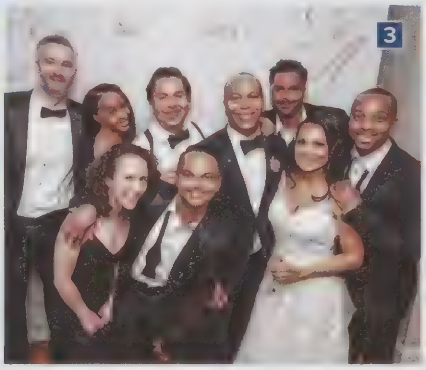
Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo**. Congratulations!

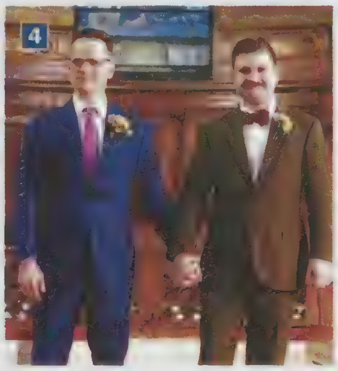
COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY
1

ADA STUDIOS

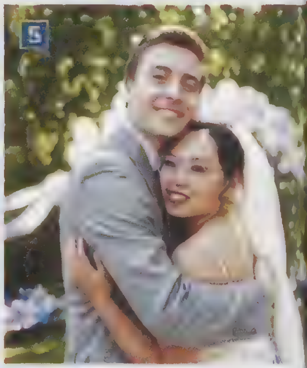
SINI CHOI



ANDRE MAIER



AUSTIN RUFFER



GIRISH GUPTA

ANGELO GHISLANI

CORNELIA ZAISS

LEAH WENDZINSKI

1. Patricia Rojas-Guerrero '12 and Christopher Guerrero SEAS'09 (center) were married at The Watermill in Smithtown, N.Y., on January 8, surrounded by close family and friends. Left to right, Johanna Lee '12, Grace Urena '10, Christina Ortiz '12, Natalee Rivera '13, Cindy Estevez BC'09, Andrew Racine BUS'25 and Yesenia Miranda SEAS'07.

2. Left to right, bridal party members Joy Chang '17, Grace Kim '15 and Julie Hoffman '16 flanked Tiffany Kim '16 at her April 15 wedding, held at Rule of Thirds in Brooklyn, N.Y.'s Greenpoint neighborhood.

3. Porter Leslie '06, Mica Wilson '06, Armond Adams '06, Christopher Jones '07, Dr. Elaine Barfield and Marques Torbert '06 (left to right, back row), and Amanda Houle BC'06 and Sy Cabria '06 (front row), celebrated at Adams' and Barfield's wedding, held at The Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers on May 13.

4. Jonathan Hill '11 (left) and Stephen Davan '12 were married on April 30 at St. Paul's Chapel, where they met, on the 13th anniversary of their first date.

5. Joseph Warton and Linnie Jiang Warton '19 married in Woodside, Calif., on June 25.

6. Drew Feldman SEAS'17 and Julia Davis-Porada '17 (center) were married on April 29 at Hampshire Country Club, Mamaroneck, N.Y., joined by top row, left to right: Sarina Perera '17, Mark Pietrogiacomo '17, Natalie Davis-Porada '19, Sam Canning '17, Lauren Riddiford SEAS'17, Madison McCarthy '17 and Ben Ribovich; and bottom row, left to right: Faith Yu SEAS'17, Christie Corn '17, Shawn Yuan '17, Erina Shan and Katy Su '17.

7. Carly Stiles '16 (left) and Allison Henry '16 were married at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Fla., on April 1.

8. Unyimeabasi Udoh '17 (left) and Adelaide Young SEAS'17 were married at Firehouse Chicago on April 15.

2009

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MAY 30–JUNE 1
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Shira Burton
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Hello, classmates! I write to you during maternity leave after having my daughter, Naomi, this past spring. We're doing well and enjoyed our first summer together!

Just two updates this time, both from Texas. Looking forward to hearing from more of you, whether you're in Texas or anywhere else in the world.

Joanna Smolenski writes: "I accepted a position as assistant professor and clinical ethicist at the Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy in Houston, starting in July. I'd be happy to connect with any Columbia alumni working at the Texas Medical Center or in Houston more generally!"

And **Casey Smith** shares: "I recently took a leap and joined Walmart, where I am rounding out my first year leading our Customer Experience Analytics and Quality team for Contact Center Operations in Fort Worth. Prior to joining Walmart, my first love was the aviation industry (with a stint at Haas Group Intl. supporting Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, and eight years with American Airlines in CX Program Management).

"I am a novice fabric designer by night, usually gaining inspiration from my 2-year-old daughter and travels. I was teaching my daughter to swim this past summer, bringing back fond memories of my time swimming for Columbia. Go Lions!

"I joined the Columbia Alumni Association Dallas Fort Worth Board of Directors in April as secretary. Please join us for an event if you're in the area for travel or if you're local!"

Please feel free to reach out any time if you have news to share. You can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2010

Billy Organek
william.a.organek@gmail.com

Hi, Class of 2010! I hope you had a fun and relaxing summer.

Lauren Casey Hayes-Deats recently joined the Contemporary American Theater Festival as its general manager. Making theater in West Virginia is a long-held dream of hers, which she once tearfully recounted to her Lit Hum professor. She still calls Washington, D.C., home 10 months of the year, but is spending summers home in the mountains. Lauren had great summer plans, with a trip in August to Denmark and Sweden with her children (aged 5 and 2).

I hope the international flights went well and you enjoyed the trip!

Dean Forthun SPS'13 offered a detailed recap of 2023: "I made a career change into the financial planning world in fall 2022, and within my first six months I set a record for most new clients onboarded. On March 23, my wife, Ellie, and I welcomed our second child, Josephine, just shy of our son Lorenzo's second birthday. A few weeks later we shot out to Phoenix to introduce Josephine to some of my wife's family while mixing in a very cool concert at Talking Stick Amphitheater to see Dead & Company, a band featuring former members of The Grateful Dead, along with John Mayer (requested by my son, believe it or not). From there we hit the road through beautiful Sedona to see Red Rocks and Monument Park, ultimately stopping in Pagosa Springs, Colo., for some time soaking in the natural hot springs. On our way back we stopped in Durango, Colo., to jump aboard the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, hit the Four Corners and then cruise on home. It was quite the memorable road-trip for our young family! Upon returning, we had Josephine baptized at our local Catholic Church by the same priest who baptized our son and married Ellie and me. That was pretty cool! We enjoy living in beautiful Yorba Linda, Calif., with our children and Basset/Beagle, Sambuca. God has blessed us immensely and we continue to praise Him for the gifts we have."

That all sounds incredible; thanks for the update!

Please don't be strangers, 2010ers — take a few moments to update the rest of the class on the great things going on in your lives! You can email me or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and
Sean Udell
nurielm@gmail.com
sean.udell@gmail.com

Greetings 2011! We got a number of wonderful updates this season, and we are glad to hear that so many of you are doing well and thriving.

Your correspondents are both pleased to report that they've completed their medical training and are on to attending physician life. In June, Sean finished his chief residency in psychiatry at Penn Medicine and Nuriel his fellowship in multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology at Keck Medicine of the University of Southern California.

As things wrapped up in Philadelphia for Sean, he had the pleasure of welcoming many visitors to the Cheesesteak Capital. Among them were best friends — and Ruggles and East Campus roommates — **Lia Bersin SEAS'11** and **Ali Krimmer**. The trio explored Philadelphia's many neighborhoods and consumed lots of incredible food, including cheesesteaks at Angelo's (Lia's first!), cannolis from Termini Brothers and Israeli fare from Laser Wolf. **Kavitha Surana**, who lives in nearby New Jersey, joined the crew for Sunday breakfast and a trip to FDR Park. Now in Park City, Utah, Sean looks forward to welcoming more visitors to his new digs with substantially better views.

Jonathan Hill and Stephen Davan '12 were married April 30 on campus (!) at St. Paul's Chapel in a cozy ceremony officiated by Alex Hare '13. The party continued downtown at their favorite West Village gay bar/civil rights landmark/burger joint, Julius'. St. Paul's was where Jonathan and Stephen met years and years ago, at weekly meetings for *The Blue & White Magazine* held in the basement. And April 30 was the 13th anniversary of their first date at — where else? — the now-defunct Abbey on 105th. See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Sam Laskey has been joining fellow screenwriters on the Writers Guild of America picket lines. Fortunately, he already has multiple projects in production. His second Netflix show, *Captain Laserhawk*, based on the video game *Far Cry* and other Ubisoft intellectual property, premiered at the Annecy International Animation Festival in June and will drop on the streaming service later this year. *Ick*, a horror-comedy feature written by Sam and directed by music video maestro Joseph Kahn (Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood," Britney Spears' "Toxic"), filmed this summer in Texas. Sam has some other fun stuff in the works that he can't talk about yet.

Sam and his wife, Becky Gimple BC'11, celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary on July 5 with a trip to sunny Santa Barbara. They brought along their beautiful five-month-old foster daughter. Sam and Becky have been raising this little princess since she was born. Sam decided to become a foster dad after spending three years as a court appointed special advocate for children in the Los Angeles dependency system. Sam encourages classmates to consider volunteering with a CASA program in their area.

Kate Taylor LAW'14 (née Durnan) recently moved to Summit, N.J., and she and her husband celebrated their son's first birthday in April. Kate is a partner in the Mergers & Acquisitions group at Debevoise & Plimpton, which moved its offices to Hudson Yards in January.

Anna Ultvedt Malkan sends an update from sunny Stockholm. On May 6 she married Dror Asaf in an (initially small) ceremony in the

Stockholm archipelago that ended up being attended by 55 guests including **Claire Bullen**, Kai McKinnon SEAS'13, Jimmy Nugent '13 and Alexander Lopez SEAS'13. The big celebration is tentatively planned for November 2024 in Mendoza, Argentina. She also recently started a job as country manager - Sweden for Norwegian electric vehicle charging company Amina Charging. She says she'd love to connect with others in the EV space and reminds everyone to please let her know if they find themselves in Sweden.

Shira Schindel and Ron Gejman '10 are moving back to New York City with their daughter, Adi (2!). Ron will begin an oncology fellowship at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian. Shira will launch Kinder Kids Media, a children's media company centered on audio storytelling.

In the last 12 years, **Katie Lupica** has toured the Northeast and Midwest's many fine theatre fellowships, living and working in NYC, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Ithaca, Cleveland, Buffalo and (finally) Chicago. This past summer, after completing an M.F.A. at Northwestern, she was to move with her partner, Nathan, and their cat, Clementine, to Knoxville to begin a dual dream job as assistant professor of directing at the University of Tennessee and associate artistic director of the Clarence Brown Theatre! In the past two years, she has spent lots of time in Chicago with the wonderful **Meghan Coppoletti;** enjoyed visits from her bestie, Kieron Cindric '08; and embarked on a Willa Cather-themed road trip to Nebraska with the one and only **Annie Minoff.** Last summer, she visited the incredible **Adina Levin** in Barcelona while in Europe on a research grant.

Katie says she is excited for the next chapter and welcomes visits in the coming years from any Lions who want to experience Dollywood and the Great Smoky Mountains. Go Lions/Wildcats/Vols!

Please send us your latest news, and we'll include it in a future issue. You can reach us via email or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.

LAURA SACHS

Alex Powell '12 (left) and Negin Navab '12 became engaged on June 17 on campus.

2012

Pat Blute
pblute@gmail.com

As the trees on College Walk flip to a new hue and welcome a new cohort of Columbian Lions, we remember fall memories on campus. The dwindling of summer light illuminated new opportunities to celebrate the sparks those moments have ignited!

Stephen Davan and Jonathan Hill '11 were married on April 30 at St. Paul's Chapel, in a cozy ceremony officiated by Alex Hare '13. The party continued downtown at their favorite "West Village gay bar/civil rights landmark/burger joint," Julius'.

St. Paul's was where the two met years and years ago, at weekly meetings for *The Blue & White Magazine* held in the chapel basement. (And April 30 was the 13th anniversary of their first date at the Abbey on 105th and Broadway.)

Congratulations, and a beautiful Columbia story and ceremony! See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Stephanie Hart GS'15 started her second year of residency in pathology at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. She and her husband, Baxter Matthews, welcomed their first child, Emilia Quinn Hart-Matthews, on November 22.

Best to your family, Stephanie, Baxter and Emilia!

Be sure to stay in touch. Enjoy, and I look forward to hearing where your adventures take you next! Please reach out to me by email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

One note to share this time: **Jacob Snider,** who lives in Los Angeles, writes, "I am composing the original music for the feature film *Common Ground,* along with Jim Fairchild. It world-premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in June, and won the annual Human/Nature award. It stars Academy Award winner Laura Dern, Academy Award nominee Woody Harrelson, Donald Glover, Rosario Dawson, Ian Somerhalder, and Jason Momoa."

The Tribeca Film Festival press release noted, "Sobering yet hopeful, *Common Ground* exposes the interconnectedness of American farming policy, politics and illness. Follow the solution-driven plight of Regenerative Farmers as they make a case for soil health across the continent and beyond."

"In particular," Jacob adds, "I wanted to mention my gratitude to Chris Washburne GSAS'99, Ben Waltzer JRN'10, George Lewis and Maura Spiegel GSAS'93, whose impressions on me as an undergraduate have stayed with me."

Please reach out to me with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2014

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1
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Development Contact
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Rebecca Schechter Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

Bruno Rigonatti Mendes is back in the United States at Stanford GSB for an M.B.A. He interned at McKinsey in NYC this past summer.

As always, please reach out with any updates you wish to share! You can contact me at the email at the top of the column, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Be sure to read the parameters at the top of the form before submitting to ensure your photo is eligible for publication.

EMILY CHANG

CC'16 friends (from top) Lily Liu-Krason, Angel Wang and Sonya Li hung out in Los Angeles on March 6.

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello Class of 2015! Hope you enjoy the change of season and have a good fall.

One bit of news to share this time: **Theodore Macioce** was awarded a Ph.D. in physics from Caltech in June for a dissertation on clusters of galaxies and silicon lenses. He is pursuing a career in quantum computing at a physical science and engineering research laboratory in California.

As always, classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the *CCT* Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos are welcome, too! Send those right to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

Happy fall, 2016. 'Tis wedding season. Read on for some love stories from classmates and an endorsement of the PE requirement. If you want to see your friends or your story in *CCT*, please submit! It's a great memory and/or surprise. That being said, to encourage y'all to also write in with any and all updates, I'll share two quick "success" stories from the updates!

Samantha Duncan recently mentioned to me that she met up with other alumni working in film art departments in Los Angeles who happened to read this column, and I was recently able to reconnect with a CC'15-er visiting NYC who read that I am in New York!

I'm in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and always happy to reconnect with you. I'm working on a book about fries so please message me if you're interested in hearing more or have had any delicious potatoes.

With that, please enjoy some Lion love:

Amy Li went to **Julie Chen**'s wedding with many other CC'16-ers.

Tiffany Kim writes: "Kevin (Duke '16) and I met in San Francisco a month before lockdown, in February 2020. We moved to NYC at the end of 2022 and got married in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, on April 15 at Rule of Thirds, a venue that felt most like us. The bridal party consisted of all Columbia archery alumni, including maid of honor Grace Kim '15, and bridesmaids Julie Hoffmann '16 and Joy Chang '17." See "Just Married!" for a photo.

From **Allison Henry,** "Allison and **Carly Stiles** met through PE hiking class and grew their relationship through both being WBAR DJs and Woodbridge residents. They were married among family and many friends from their shared time at Columbia." See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Please reach out to me with your news by email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Karisma Price's poem "The Art of London Firearms" won the 2023 Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize for Younger Poets and will appear on the feature page of the September/October issue of *The American Poetry Review.*

Ian Covert graduated with a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Washington, where his thesis work was titled *Transparent Machine Learning: Theory and Computation.* He traveled during the summer, beginning with a pre-wedding engagement party for **Ankit Shah SEAS'17** in Orlando, and later visiting Korea and Taiwan with Jae Kwon SEAS'18. He's now continuing to work in machine learning as a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford.

Bianca Guerrero finished a residency at CUNY City College, where she taught an undergraduate course, led an independent study and managed a fellowship program for students interested in social justice. She has been exploring fiber arts (quilting specifically), taking writing classes and trying to learn to take good photos on film. Bianca still resides in New York and started a job at Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice in July.

Dr. **Chris George** was recently selected to participate in the esteemed American Medical Association's Foundation Leadership Development Institute, a testament to his commitment to the medical field. Attending the AMA's annual meeting, Chris says he had the privilege of engaging with national leaders in healthcare, delving into challenging subjects that affect physicians across the country. These included crucial issues like Medicare reform, reproductive rights and scope creep. Driven by a deep passion for medicine and a desire to effect positive change, Chris intends to actively contribute to the AMA's initiatives and play an integral role in shaping the organization's stance on these important matters.

Please reach out to me with your news, updates and/or College memories via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

2018

Alexander Birkel
and Maleeha Chida
ab4065@columbia.edu
mnc2122@columbia.edu

A hello from your friendly neighborhood class correspondents! It was great to see so many familiar faces at Columbia Reunion 2023 in early June, as well as reconnect with old friends and meet classmates that we surprisingly never got the chance to know! Shoutout to our Reunion Committee co-chairs, **Maya Ho** and **Karen Lopez,** for putting on a spectacular dinner, and thanks to each and every one of you for making our fifth-year reunion so special.

See the nearby photos, and a bonus one in our column online (college.columbia.edu/cct).

Stay in Touch

Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name: **college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.**

In this edition we highlight **Tiffany Troy** SOA'22's debut poetry collection, *Dominus.* Tiffany is also co-translator of Santiago Acosta's forthcoming *The Coming Desert/El próximo desierto.*

Please continue to share photos, stories or memories (especially from reunion) with us so we can remember the special moments we had together! You can email us or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple— for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2019

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Emily Gruber
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We hope that everyone is enjoying the start to fall! We look forward to sharing any updates that you send to us in the coming months. You can reach us via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Khiem Chau shares: "My wife and I moved back to New York City after four years in California. I finished my service in the Marine Corps and will pursue an M.B.A. at NYU Stern School of Business."

Itamar Klein wrote in June: "I'm an artillery officer in the U.S. Army on rotation in Europe for the last seven months. The mission has been really motivating but can't wait to get home."

2020

Stephen Cone and
Kyra Ann Dawkins
jsc2247@columbia.edu
kad2196@columbia.edu

Kyra Ann Dawkins is now attending the School of the Arts, pursuing an M.F.A. in creative writing with a fiction concentration.

Sabrina Reichert (née Lautin) started a Ph.D. in geophysics at UT Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences, with a focus on marine seismic tomography. She is the president of the Texas Geophysical Society, UT's student chapter of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

Thank you to those who submitted notes, and we look forward to hearing from more of you soon enough. Please email either of us, or submit them through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Posing at their CC'18 reunion dinner on June 3 were (left to right) Sorangel Liriano, Karen Lopez, Yanlin Wu and Neyanel Vasquez.

CCT class correspondents Alexander Birkel '18 and Maleeha Chida '18 met up at Columbia Reunion on June 3.

2021

Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey Class of 2021! I hope the summer was a great time for rest and relaxation for everyone! For me, it was a great time to connect with friends still living around the city and around the country. No matter how far we get from College Walk, there will always be a fellow Lion just around the corner. If you would like to share your own Class Note or update, please feel free to reach out to me by email at any time, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Send photos directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Michael Van Duinen is in his third year of his chemistry Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago and is feeling better than ever! He went through some rough patches, eventually passing his candidacy examination, but both his research and life in general have taken off since. This past summer he was looking forward to two conferences and, shortly after, a personal trip back to New York City, with all of these trips wrapping up just in time to celebrate his birthday at home in Chicago. He can only hope his Class of 2021 peers are faring as well or better. Roar, Lion, Roar!

Eleanor Chen has some cool entrepreneurial news! She writes, "I'm excited to share that I've started my own pickleball paddle business, Pickleberry, with **Kathy Lau SEAS'21,** my friend and previous roommate at Columbia.

"After completing our studies at Columbia, we were inspired to combine our entrepreneurial spirit with our passion for sports to create a brand that could have a meaningful impact on the world of pickleball, a rapidly growing sport known for its blend of tennis, badminton and ping pong that has been gaining immense popularity across the country. Drawing upon the knowledge and skills acquired at Columbia, we have meticulously crafted a range of high-quality pickleball paddles that offer exceptional performance and durability (available on Amazon: bit.ly/45rNC0H). As a token of my appreciation, I would be delighted to offer a special Pickleberry discount exclusively for Columbia alumni and their referrals."

2022

Mark Anthony Torres
mat2223@columbia.edu

Hey CC'22! I cannot believe it has been more than a year since we graduated! I definitely miss hanging on Low Beach with friends to relax after class. Now that Low Beach is far away, I find myself unwinding after work with a long run in preparation for the Chicago Marathon, which will take place on my 25th birthday, in October. As we move on to our next chapter in life, I hope you have found a new hobby, unlocked more talents or done something fruitful for your physical and/or mental health.

Emese Marka is continuing her medical doctoral studies in Hungary. When she is not studying, she is involved in PET Kupa, a Hungarian project whose aim is to get rid of trash pollutants in various rivers and other bodies of water throughout the country. So far, the project has collected 3.6 tons of trash from the Maros River and 6.5 tons from Lake Tisza. This summer she took part in two expeditions, on the Tisza River and the Bodrog River.

If you would like to share amazing news or life updates, please feel free to reach out to me by email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Send photos directly to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2023

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Ashley Yu
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[Editor's note: *CCT* welcomes new class correspondent **Ashley Yu**! Here, a few words from her.]

"Hey, Class of 2023! It is hard to believe we graduated just a few months ago and are already CC alumni! I hope we can all find meaningful ways to stay connected. I am so excited to learn about everyone's new adventures, whether that is starting a job, continuing on to graduate school or embarking on other exciting journeys. Through submitting Class Notes, each and every one of you can share what you have been up to recently and any exciting life updates — small or big!

"Please reach out to me via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. I will be sure to incorporate your update in a future column! Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

"Also: Columbia Homecoming is Saturday, October 14. Watch for emails from the Alumni Office!"

obituaries

Columbia College Today has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. You can read more about their lives and find featured obituaries for **Robert A. Gottlieb '52, Rabbi Harold S. Kushner '55** and **Richard Ravitch '55** online at college.columbia.edu/cct. To submit an obituary for a Columbia College graduate, please use the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_obituary.

1945 **Lawrence S. Ross,** physician and artist, Voorhees, N.J., on April 15, 2023.

1948 **Norman M. Levy,** psychiatrist, New York City, on March 2, 2023.

1949 **Howard N. Beldock,** attorney, Warren, Conn., on June 1, 2023.

Willard B. Brown Jr., businessman, Brewster, Mass., on June 20, 2023.

William J. Lubic, attorney, Red Bank, N.J., on July 18, 2023.

1953 **Richard D. Beckman,** English professor, Philadelphia, on March 7, 2023.

1956 **H. Michael Grant,** psychiatrist, New York City, on March 26, 2023.

1959 **Stephen A. Kallis Jr.,** public relations executive, Temple Terrace, Fla., on March 29, 2023.

Uriel Nauenberg, physics professor, on December 31, 2019.

Norman Vieira, law professor, Myrtle Beach, S.C., on August 11, 2022.

1960 **George J. Camarinos,** gastroenterologist, St. Petersburg, Fla., on February 16, 2023.

Michael N. Sohn, attorney, Washington, D.C., on March 22, 2022.

1963 **Barry M. Austern,** biochemist, Cincinnati, on April 11, 2023.

Michael D. Nolan, community organizer, San Francisco, on April 8, 2023.

1964 **Lewis M. Gardner,** writer and actor, Lake Hill, N.Y., on August 3, 2020.

Peter K. Machamer, educator, historian and philosopher of science, Pittsburgh, on May 31, 2023.

1968 **Charles T. Lindholm,** anthropology professor, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., on June 30, 2023.

1973 **Stephen F. Pellino,** attorney, Ridgefield, N.J., on May 13, 2023.

1980 **Matthew P. Kennedy,** banker, Harrison, N.Y., on May 18, 2023.

1988 **Michael J. Kennelty,** global volunteer, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on January 7, 2023.

1991 **Rachel J. Porter,** special education teacher, Brooklyn, N.Y., on February 27, 2023.

2001 **John K.C. "Kimball" Payne,** reporter and investment banker, Virginia Beach, Va., on February 25, 2023.

readitonline

TOM WILLIAMS / GETTY IMAGES

GET THE STORY AT
college.columbia.edu/cct

NUSRAT CHOUDHURY '98 MAKES JUDICIAL HISTORY

The U.S. federal court system was established with the Judiciary Act of 1789, but it would take nearly 235 years for a Muslim woman to be appointed to a federal judgeship. This past June, the U.S. Senate confirmed civil rights lawyer **Nusrat Choudhury '98** to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Her lifetime appointment is historic in more ways than one: Choudhury is the first Bangladeshi-American, and just the second Muslim person, to serve as a U.S. federal judge.

Odyssey Mentoring Program

Join the Odyssey Mentoring Program and grow your Columbia College network! Through OMP, alumni and students have the opportunity to connect through in-person mentoring events or online. Alumni can join a community of mentors that allows them to share their knowledge and experience with students and young alumni.

To learn more and sign up, visit college.columbia.edu/omp.

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ROHIT T. AGGARWALA '93
IS PREPARING NEW YORK CITY TO
MEET ITS BIGGEST CHALLENGE

“My main goal over the next two years is to really take advantage of every opportunity and savor all aspects of the college experience. I know that, without the financial aid package I was awarded, I would not be able to make such great connections and receive the top-tier education that I have at Columbia.”

— GABRIELA RENÉE BENYAS CC’25

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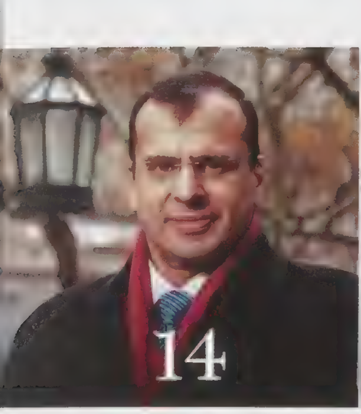
Contents



features

14

The Climate Chief

Rohit T. Aggarwala '93 is preparing New York City to meet the existential threat of a warming planet.

By Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

20

Making Rooms for Everyone

Editor-in-chief Asad Syrkett '11 is redesigning the mission at *Elle Decor.*

By Jill C. Shomer

24

Education, With a Twist

Sixty years of shaking things up with the Columbia Bartending Agency.

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

28

Core Conversations

We ask five professors what it's like to teach the Core today.

Cover: Photograph by Jörg Meyer

CCT Columbia College Today

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This issue includes FSC-certified paper.

Contents

departments

3 Message from the Dean

4 The Big Picture: Picture Perfect

6 Letters to the Editor

7 Around the Quads

12 Roar, Lion, Roar

Players from the 1978 Ultimate Frisbee team are still feeling the "Spirit of the Game." Get the story on page 12.

alumninews

30 Tree Lighting Gives College Walk a Glow Up

32 Message from CCAA President Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

33 Bookshelf

34 Lions
Tifphani White-King '98; Isabel Estrada-Jamison '06; Louise Dubin '92; Larry Slaughter '85

36 Class Notes
Just Married!

71 Obituaries

72 Read It Online
David Lehman '70 marks 35 years of celebrating the best American verse.

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DIANE BONDAREFF

Message from the Dean

Choosing Community

This spring, Columbia College, Columbia Engineering and the School of General Studies will launch the Undergraduate Community Initiative to deepen students' understanding of and commitment to the shared values of belonging, respect and service that support our campus community.

As the events of this past fall unfolded, and with winter break offering a chance to reflect on a challenging time for Columbia College, a simple question with profound implications has often occupied my thoughts: "*Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*"

The title of Martin Luther King Jr.'s final book confronted readers with a stark question facing the nation in 1968, at the height of the modern civil rights movement. Though posed in reaction to circumstances and challenges of a different era, I have contemplated this choice not in a belief that history is repeating itself per se, but — to paraphrase Mark Twain — in recognition that, on our campus, it is certainly rhyming with previous seasons of conflict and unrest at Columbia.

For the College, there can, of course, be only one path forward. Yet choosing community is not a static choice; it requires ongoing commitment, dynamic adaptation and conviction. We must reassess and renew how we define the community we seek to sustain, and take active steps to realize it in the lived experience of our students.

Our mission, and indeed the ethos of the Core Curriculum, rests on the principle of free speech and expression, rejects uniformity of opinion and embraces difference. Ours is the challenge of parsing and sitting with conflicting viewpoints and philosophies. This may seem like a recipe for disorder, but as I have said many times in recent months, what we do remains a radical proposition.

Alongside our affirmation of diversity of ideas and experience is our parallel fidelity to providing students with the tools to explore those differences in spaces where deep listening, respectful debate and social engagement are celebrated. These practices are the essence of the community we choose to enrich and propagate at Columbia.

Ours will never be a campus where like-minded individuals conform to any single ideology. Nor is it a community where a common socioeconomic or cultural heritage provides uniformity of experience. To forge a shared language in such an environment, we must listen carefully to one another, and make a good faith effort to hear divergent viewpoints with an open mind. No student should feel that their voice is without value, that difficult questions cannot be asked or that they must stifle expression in the face of intimidation or harassment.

Conversely, in times of conflict and quiet alike, we must be mindful that our words and actions land in the context of a richly diverse social world. Our language fosters community building and social change even as it also discomforts and disrupts. Ascertaining the most generative discourse, comprehending its effects and creating the critical space to understand the asymmetric conditions in which our words take on meaning are equally important tasks. Indeed, a tension between understanding the world as it is, and our differing hopes for what our world could be, sits at the heart of the learning community we inhabit and maintain.

To all of these ends, in the Spring semester, the College — alongside Columbia Engineering and the School of General Studies, and with other University partners — will launch the Undergraduate Community Initiative. The initiative will focus on deepening students' understanding of and commitment to the values of belonging, respect and service.

These values are not only ideals to aspire to; they also reflect choices, behaviors and habits of mind that must be cultivated and reaffirmed continually. Together they can contribute to a campus environment that is respectful, empathetic and open to a plurality of perspectives even as it affirms free speech, an independence of mind and a diversity of political visions.

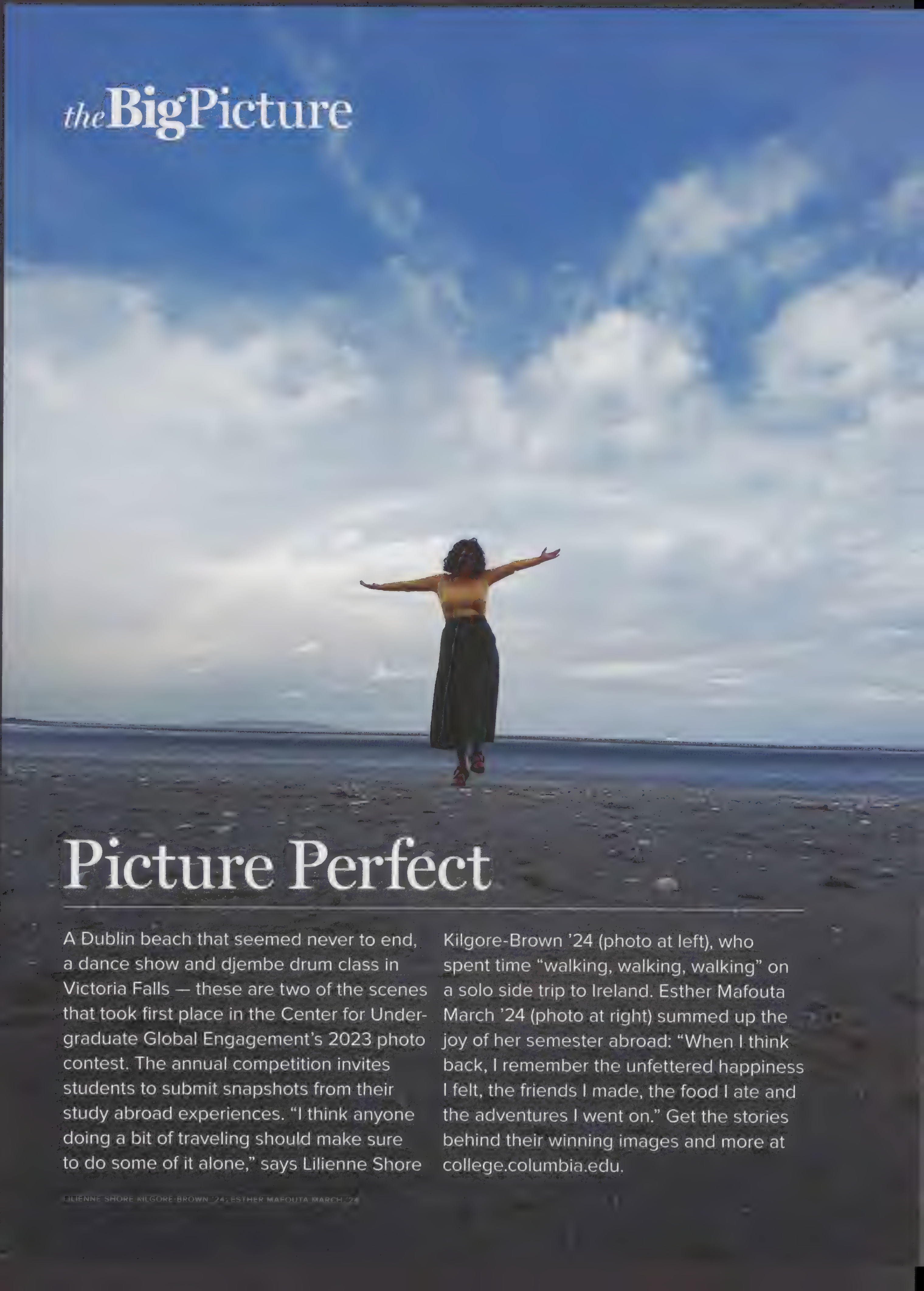
Moreover, this initiative aims to bring together theory and practice through a robust notion of service; namely, the recognition that the pursuit of knowledge and justice takes shape within the context of our mutual responsibility to and for one another and to the world around us.

In these and all issues, the voices of alumni continue to be a source of great strength, and I encourage you to remain engaged in the life of the College. I will share more about the Undergraduate Community Initiative in the months ahead, and I look forward to welcoming you back to campus Thursday, May 30–Saturday, June 1, for Columbia Reunion 2024, as our remarkable alumni renew their own commitments to one another and to the Columbia College community.

With respect,

Josef Sorett
Dean of Columbia College and the Henry L. and Lucy G. Moses Professor; Vice President for Undergraduate Education; Professor of Religion and African American & African Diaspora Studies

the Big Picture



Picture Perfect

A Dublin beach that seemed never to end, a dance show and djembe drum class in Victoria Falls — these are two of the scenes that took first place in the Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement's 2023 photo contest. The annual competition invites students to submit snapshots from their study abroad experiences. "I think anyone doing a bit of traveling should make sure to do some of it alone," says Lilienne Shore Kilgore-Brown '24 (photo at left), who spent time "walking, walking, walking" on a solo side trip to Ireland. Esther Mafouta March '24 (photo at right) summed up the joy of her semester abroad: "When I think back, I remember the unfettered happiness I felt, the friends I made, the food I ate and the adventures I went on." Get the stories behind their winning images and more at college.columbia.edu.

LILIENNE SHORE KILGORE-BROWN '24; ESTHER MAFOUTA MARCH '24

Letters to the Editor

EILEEN BARROSO

A Terrific Read

Dean Josef Sorett's Convocation address to the incoming Class of 2027 ("Message from the Dean," Fall 2023) were the inspiring words that need to be heard by our children long before they arrive at the college of their choice. I'll be sharing them with my grandson (age 9, a voracious reader, Class of 2039?) and granddaughter (age 6, Class of 2042?).

A few pages later, there was a piece ("Around the Quads, Core Column," "The Core's Great Community") about Sabancı University in Turkey and its commitment to the values of the Core Curriculum. I'm an architect, and my former firm designed the original Sabancı campus. I was later involved in the planning and construction of its recent Nanotechnology Research and Application Center, the leading research entity of its type in the country. It is so gratifying to see Columbia partnering with Sabancı and continuing its founders' vision.

And then there was the article celebrating the American Library Association's current president, Emily Drabinsky '97 ("The Battle Over Books"). I've had the special privilege of helping to plan and design more than 7 million square feet of library space around the world, working with the people most dedicated to intellectual freedom: our librarians. We must thank them for their ongoing courage in the face of such pressure to ban and censor.

All in all, a terrific read for these times — and that was just up to page 27!

Stephen Johnson '72
New York City

Geology Rocks

I feasted on Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09's Fall 2023 article "Geology Rocks!" about Professor Steven L. Goldstein '76, GSAS'86's romps through NYC geology. It reminded me of our class field trips 50 years ago with Professor John Sanders. Professor Sanders and field assistant Jody led us to Fort Tryon Park, where that magnificent Manhattan schist is abundantly, eternally evident, with gleaming chunks of purple garnet embedded within. Sanders' eyes were ablaze recounting for us the apocalyptic, crushing metamorphic forces and upheavals that created these geological landscapes. Tectonic plate dynamics were just a theory then, but Professor Sanders enthusiastically supported the theory.

In the intervening years I have marveled at tectonic plate interfaces and landscapes the world over, consulting the textbook *The Earth Through Time* before traveling. But for fascinating geology features, you don't have to go to Iceland, the Azores, Guam, Hawaii, the East African Rift Valley, Alaska, Central America, Ireland, Nunavut, Mongolia, Greenland, Antarctica, Italy, Nepal, Brazil, Yellowstone, Yosemite or Camel's Hump in Vermont — how about those outcroppings of schist (some with glacial striations) right here in New York?

Thank you, Professor Goldstein and author Sirju, for the wonderful article, and heartfelt thanks to Professor Sanders (of blessed memory) for the learning, teaching and a lifetime of interest and memories!

Gary Lehman '76
Essex Junction, Vt.

A Saturday Surprise

The article in the Fall 2023 issue about the historic 1947 Columbia-Army football game ("Roar, Lion, Roar," "At 100, Recalling One for the History Books") brought back a very pleasant memory.

That fall, when I was 15, my dad told me that he had tickets for the Columbia-Army game. He knew that I regularly listened to Saturday afternoon college games on radio (no TV then). However, it still came as a surprise, since we had not gone to any games previously.

It was a chilly, overcast day at Baker Field. I have never forgotten Bill Swiacki BUS'48's two breathtaking catches and the despondent look of the Army player who missed the crucial post-touchdown kick. Even then, the game felt historic.

Two years later, I enrolled as a freshman at Columbia.

At a Dean's Day luncheon a number of years ago, I asked whether there was any site on campus honoring Swiacki. The answer was ambiguous. I hope there is.

Martin R. Liebowitz '52
East Setauket, N.Y.

Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not *CCT*, the College or the University. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and *CCT* style. Please submit Letters to the Editor online: **college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.**

Around the Quads

EILEEN BARROSO

GEORGE VAN AMSON ’74, Columbia University trustee emeritus, inveterate mentor to students and alumni, and longtime Wall Street executive, was honored with the Alexander Hamilton Medal on November 16 at a standing-room-only black-tie dinner in Low Rotunda. The event raised more than $1.1 million, which will benefit College students by supporting the Core Curriculum and financial aid.

At the dinner, left to right: Dean Josef Sorett, Van Amson and President Minouche Shafik.

2024 John Jay Awards

The John Jay Awards Dinner, which celebrates alumni for their distinguished professional achievement, will be held on Wednesday, March 6. The 2024 honorees are Dr. **Jennifer Ashton (née Garfein) ’91, VPS’00, HN’16,** a physician, author and television medical correspondent; **Jonathan D. Bram ’87,** a founding partner at Global Infrastructure Partners; **Dane E. Holmes ’92,** chief administrative officer of KKR; **Ai-jen Poo ’96,** president of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and executive director of Caring Across Generations; and **Anthony “Tony” Tutrone ’86,** global head of alternative investments at Neuberger Berman.

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Sherwin Award Recipients

Andrew Wood ’14

Abby Pritzker Pucker ’14

The Gerald Sherwin Young Alumni Service Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to Columbia College’s young alumni community, was presented to **Andrew Wood ’14** and **Abby Pritzker Pucker ’14** at the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting on October 14.

Wood, a VP at Morgan Stanley who is a wealth advisor in Beverly Hills, is an active member of the Young Leaders Council, Young Alumni Board and Columbia Club of Southern California. He has mentored dozens of Columbia students on career paths both informally and through the Columbia Athletics Finance Society and the Odyssey Mentoring Program.

Pritzker Pucker, an entrepreneur and cultural producer who is involved in initiatives at the nexus of the creative economy and civic engagement, established the Pritzker Pucker Internship Fund at the College to help students gain professional summer internship experiences in the fields of art, culture, media and tech.

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Wadhwa Named Rhodes Scholar

Mrinalini Sisodia Wadhwa '24 has been named a 2024 U.S. Rhodes Scholar; she is among 32 Americans chosen for the prestigious scholarship, which provides funding for two or three years of post-graduate study at Oxford.

Wadhwa, who grew up in New Delhi and New York City, is double-majoring in history and mathematics. With an interest in the intersections of gender, religion and law, she is examining how religious knowledge is developed, transmitted and codified into law in the context of the British and French empires, with resonances for present-day debates over rights-based claims in our legal systems.

"Mrinalini has impressed many here at Columbia with her intellectual curiosity and generosity of spirit. I'm delighted to see her recognized in this way," said Ariella Lang, associate dean of academic affairs and director of undergraduate research and fellowships. "Mrinalini is always the first to acknowledge the faculty and mentors who have supported her and challenged her thinking. I too want to recognize the faculty, advisors and alumni community who have given unstintingly of their time to support Mrinalini and a truly inspirational group of nominees and finalists."

Vomen' and 'Women Representatives':
Reservations in India's Last Colonial
nstitution, 1930-35
Heinrich Global Fellowship | Supervisor: Professor Susan Pedersen
es & Sources
Findings & Further Study

Mrinalini Sisodia Wadhwa '24

Addressing the Campus Impact of the Middle East Crisis

The acts of terrorism and violence perpetrated by Hamas on October 7 — and the ensuing war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza — reverberated across campus this past fall. While these events had a particularly profound impact on the Jewish, Muslim, Israeli, Palestinian and Arab communities on campus, it moved many students, faculty and others to participate in vigils, protests and vigorous debate on all sides of these issues. There were also reported incidents of antisemitism, Islamophobia and students being subjected to harassment and doxxing; in response, both Columbia College and the University at large have provided an array of resources and support.

"I want to make it absolutely clear that we do not tolerate antisemitism, Islamophobia, discriminatory harassment, hate speech or violence of any form in our community," Dean Josef Sorett said in a message to the community on October 30. "These voices do not speak on behalf of, or accurately represent, our broader community."

He continued: "In times of crisis, it bears repeating that Columbia College stands resolutely as a community committed to open dialogue and intellectual freedom, respectfully affirming cultural, political and religious diversity."

The College has addressed the near-term impact of the conflict in a number of ways, including establishing a Campus Climate Response Team that meets daily during the semester to respond to student concerns in real time. Academic advisors are also assisting students who are directly impacted and who require academic accommodations, and College staff are providing one-on-one support for students and families targeted by doxxing.

"Forging a shared language with which to move forward in addressing these challenging issues has proven a formidable task," Sorett said in a subsequent message sent on November 8: "We must listen to one another, strive for empathy and continually reflect on both the intent and consequences of our speech and actions."

In support of that aim, the College — alongside Columbia Engineering, the School of General Studies and other University partners — is launching the Undergraduate Community Initiative. This series of events and dialogues for the Spring semester will focus undergraduates, faculty and staff on their responsibilities as members of a shared community, and in particular deepen their understanding of and commitment to the values of belonging, respect and service. (At press time, programming details were to be announced in January.)

At the University level, a Doxxing Resource Group was created in November to explore ways to support community members who are subject to this dangerous form of intimidation; a library of online resources also is available to offer guidance, access to policy information and more.

In addition, a Task Force on Antisemitism was formed to address the harmful impact of rising antisemitism on Jewish members of the Columbia community and to ensure that protection, respect and belonging extend to all members of the University community. The task force, which has 15 members, is co-chaired by Ester R. Fuchs, director of the Urban and Social Policy Program at SIPA; Nicholas Lemann, the Joseph Pulitzer II and Edith Pulitzer Moore Professor of Journalism; and David M. Schizer, the Harvey R. Miller Professor of Law and Economics.

Literature Humanities and the Democratic Moral Imagination

By Larry Jackson

This column is part of an ongoing series offering insight into the Core Curriculum.

Throughout the United States, universities are eliminating programs that they consider impractical, particularly those in the humanities, such as literature and philosophy. This trend is hardly new, but it has accelerated in recent years, as Nathan Heller reported in his widely discussed article in *The New Yorker,* "The End of the English Major." I'd like to talk about why the humanities are, in fact, practical, and why eliminating these programs is bad for democracy.

Columbia College requires all its students to study literature, philosophy, art and music in its Core Curriculum. While these courses sit within a broader framework of liberal arts requirements — including the fifth Core course, Frontiers of Science, which was added in 2004 — the humanities occupy a prominent place in our students' general education. In the next few issues of *CCT,* I'll explain why that is and discuss the unique benefits of each Core course.

EMMA ASHER

Core Curriculum director Larry Jackson

I'll start where all of our students begin their Columbia journey: Literature Humanities. About a month before they arrive on campus, incoming first-years begin reading Homer's *Iliad.* In its pages, they encounter the violence of war, unjust social hierarchies and morally complex relationships between siblings, husbands and wives, parents and children, and guests and hosts. To read the *Iliad* is to travel by way of imagination into a world that can seem both strange and familiar.

I want my students to take note of literary devices, such as Homer's well-known epithets and similes. But it is the ability to cross over from our world into that of the characters that interests me the most. That crossing is the work of our moral imagination.

Through literature, we can enter into the lives and experiences of people who don't look like us, think like us or live like us. From this sojourn in the lives of others — and its limits — we learn about ourselves and our values.

Empathy may be a consequence of this imaginative crossing, but it is hardly the only one. I discover the limits of my sympathies in Achilles, whose rage, described as god-like, resembles nothing so much as a child's petulance until, at last, it becomes murderous revenge. Like many modern readers, I instead empathize with Chryseis and Briseis, the trafficked women whose fate is so callously decided by Agamemnon. As a father, I feel the pride and affection for my children that Hektor shows for his son, Astyanax, in one of the epic's most moving scenes. But our identification ends there, because, unlike the Trojan warrior prince, I want my children to know only the joys of peace, not the glories of battle.

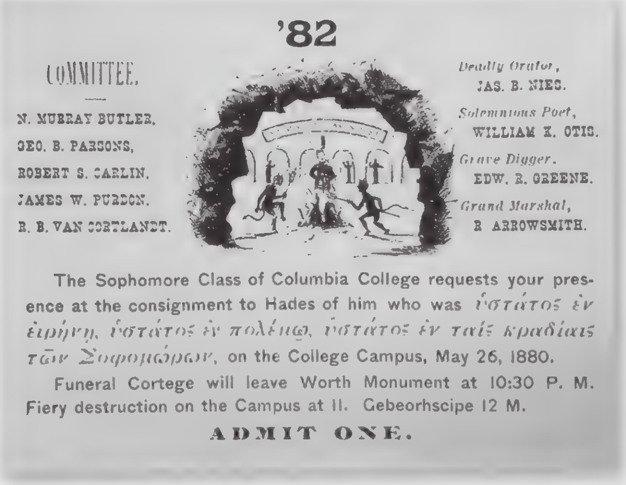
Such complex and varied emotions are what Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38 had in mind when he coined the phrase "the liberal imagination" in 1949. Born in 1905, Trilling attended the College before Lit Hum became a Core requirement in 1937, but he did take its antecedent course, John Erskine CC 1900's honors colloquium, and later taught Lit Hum. In the preface to *The Liberal Imagination* (1950), the work that established Trilling as America's foremost literary critic, the author argued that liberalism tends to deny emotions, even those on which it is based. Literature can put liberal ideas back in touch with the sentiments that inspire them.

TIME & LIFE PICTURES / GETTY IMAGES

Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38

You don't have to agree with Trilling's politics to believe that moral imagination and the sentiments it fosters are indispensable to democracy. The intellectual tradition to which Trilling belonged, beginning with Ralph Waldo Emerson, long championed literature for its ability to inspire the sociable feelings on which democracy depends. Frederick Douglass saw literature as crucial to the abolitionist struggle: "One flash from the heart-supplied intellect of Harriet Beecher Stowe could light a million camp fires in front of the embattled host of slavery, which not all the waters of the Mississippi, mingled as they are with blood, could extinguish." Walt Whitman, who served as a nurse during the Civil War, also cared for fugitive slaves, Native Americans, recent immigrants and wounded soldiers in his poetry: "And these tend inward to me, and I tend outward to them, / And such as it is to be of these more or less I am, / And of these one and all I weave the song of myself."

If literature does cultivate the moral imagination on which democracy depends, then we cannot limit our reading to works from the past or a single tradition, but rather should explore a wide range of texts and perspectives, as students in Lit Hum do with the recent addition of works by Suzan-Lori Parks, Claudia Rankine and Myung Mi Kim. The measure of students' success in Literature Humanities will be the distance that they cross in their moral imagination, and the realization that they, like Whitman, contain multitudes.



'82

COMMITTEE.

N. MURRAY BUTLER,
GEO. B. PARSONS,
ROBERT S. CARLIN,
JAMES W. PURDON,
R. B. VAN CORTLANDT.

Deadly Orator,
JAS. B. NIES.
Solemnious Poet,
WILLIAM K. OTIS.
Grave Digger,
EDW. R. GREENE.
Grand Marshal,
R ARROWSMITH.

The Sophomore Class of Columbia College requests your presence at the consignment to Hades of him who was *ὕστατος ἐν εἰρήνη, ὕστατος ἐν πολέμῳ, ὕστατος ἐν ταῖς κραδίαις τῶν Σοφομώρων*, on the College Campus, May 26, 1880.

Funeral Cortege will leave Worth Monument at 10:30 P. M. Fiery destruction on the Campus at 11. Gebeorhscipe 12 M.

ADMIT ONE.

Did*You*Know?

Columbia Hosted an End-of-Year Book Burning

In the late 1800s, classes would celebrate the end of the school year by burning their most hated Latin and Greek classics books. The fiery event was organized by a committee of undergrads; the Committee of 1880 was even headed by Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882, who later served as president of Columbia University for 43 years. A poster from that year stated that the sophomore class requested students' "presence at the consignment to Hades" of their books on May 26. The event included a funeral procession that started at 10:30 p.m., followed by speeches, poetry and then the midnight burning.

Student*Spotlight*

Simon Ogundare '24

EMMA ASHER

Meet Simon Ogundare '24 (he/him), a neuroscience behavior major who is also co-director of Nightline Peer Listening, Columbia's anonymous peer listening service. Callers to Nightline can share whatever is on their minds with nonjudgmental, empathetic students who are trained to offer coping mechanisms and to refer callers to additional resources.

How did you get involved with Nightline Peer Listening?

When I was a freshman, we were still in the pandemic so it was challenging to get a sense of which student groups were available. Nightline stood out to me because I was looking to join the Columbia community but also be able to do some tangible good. And I also thought that it would put me a little outside of my comfort zone; it was just something that I gravitated to.

What do you wish that Columbia students knew about Nightline?

We have many mottos at Nightline, but one of my favorites is "No problem is too big or too small." I think sometimes it can come across that students feel like they need to be in a very serious situation in order to call us, but students can call Nightline to talk about essentially anything on their minds, from having trouble falling asleep, to academic stress, to something relationship related — we're here for all of that.

What's been your favorite thing about being involved in Nightline?

I've made very, very close friends. The community is full of people who have genuine commitment. And I think it really speaks to their character that a lot of them will never get recognition for the calls that they take and the things they do, because our listeners are anonymous.

What's been your favorite class at Columbia, and why?

Last year I took a two-semester series, Neurobiology I and Neurobiology II. My first semester was taught by the head of the lab that I work in, so it was great to see him in that capacity. One of his priorities was finding ways for us to think as scientists; we would look at papers and ask, "Why was this choice made or that choice made?" And I think that helped to make what can feel like a ton of content to learn feel very intuitive, so I appreciated that. But I think more generally, across both semesters, the professors were very excited about the work that they do, and you felt that as they were lecturing. So even though there was a lot of content and there's a lot on your plate, it was enjoyable going to the lectures and hearing from professors who've dedicated their lives to this work.

How do you like to take advantage of being in New York City?

I created a running list of restaurants with one of my friends and we're trying to cross off as many as we can for trying different cuisines! Apart from that, one of my favorite places in New York is Riverside Park, specifically the Hudson River Greenway that goes from almost the top of Manhattan all the way to Battery Park. I love biking or running or just walking down there by the water.

JORG MEYER

Kerstin Perez ’05

By Jill C. Shomer

The popular “left brain/right brain” dichotomy suggests that science and creativity are two separate things: either/or. But Kerstin Perez ’05, the Lavine Family Associate Professor of the Natural Sciences in the Department of Physics, is using science creatively in the search for answers about dark matter.

“I’m essentially an instrument builder, and I’m making tools that have never existed,” Perez says.

For nearly a century, physicists have been trying to solve the mysteries of dark matter, which Perez patiently explains is a type of material that creates gravity but doesn’t interact with light. Scientists have noted that *something* is exerting force on the universe and producing the structures they observe, like galaxies; but without light, it can’t be seen with standard astronomical instruments.

And that’s where creative thinking comes in. Perez, an experimental particle physicist, believes one way to get closer to identifying dark matter is to develop tools to either detect it or rule out what it’s not. “Every time we measure something new about the universe, we learn something we didn’t know before,” she says. “Maybe we don’t find dark matter, but we could eliminate some things we thought were dark matter.”

Perez and her team are currently collaborating on an experiment that will release a balloon from Antarctica in December to seek out and measure cosmic particles above the atmosphere. She calls it “a sort of fishing in the universe,” looking for answers to what it might be made of.

Asked how it feels to study something so profoundly enigmatic, Perez is philosophical. “Essentially, all of the science we have ever measured — all the biology, all the particle physics, all the astrophysics, all the chemistry — all of that addresses about 20 percent of the universe,” she says. “And the other 80 percent? We don’t know what it is. That’s a pretty big problem — and so far, there isn’t an end result. But I guess that’s what it is to be a scientist.”

Born and raised in West Philadelphia, Perez thought she would study fine arts but had an avid high school physics teacher who passed on his enthusiasm; notably, she also liked the challenge of it. She earned a Ph.D. from Caltech in 2011, spending four years investigating dark matter at CERN in Geneva. She returned to Columbia as an NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow before joining the faculty at Haverford College in 2015. She later was faculty at MIT for six years before returning to Columbia in 2022.

In all of her faculty roles, Perez has especially valued connecting with students, and is gratified to feel like she has particular influence, both as a woman and as a Mexican American. “A lot of students have said it’s inspiring to see me in control of the classroom,” she says.

It’s a feeling Perez remembers from being an undergraduate herself. “Listen, physics is hard for everyone,” she says. “But when you look around the room and see no one who looks like you, you can feel like an outsider. And if you feel like you don’t belong, it’s that much harder to go to a professor’s office hours, or form a study group, or raise your hand to ask questions — to do all of those things that we know make you successful. It’s an extra burden to carry around.”

Promoting inclusivity and setting students up for success in STEM classes is a priority for Perez, and she has been advocating for change as a member of the recently formed Committee for Science Instruction. Her particular passion is adapting introductory classes to retain as many interested students as possible. “There is evidence within our own community that we are doing things that dissuade students from pursuing their passion for physics,” Perez says. “And it’s differentially impacting the students who are already historically excluded from the field — women, Black students, first-gen students or students at the intersections of all of these. So what can we do to improve that? How do we make sure that all students who are interested in these disciplines are supported?”

Perez believes that introductory classes are both the most demographically diverse and also where professors have the most potential to reach students, and so she was looking forward to teaching introductory physics for the first time (at Columbia) this spring. “I think it is my responsibility to give students the tools to be a successful physics major,” she says. “And when you make these choices to improve your classroom for everyone, it really does raise everybody up,” she says.

Because ultimately, in the pursuit of dark matter and that unknown 80 percent of the universe, creative thinkers are needed. “We absolutely do have to fulfill the promise of educational equality,” Perez says. “But thinking about it selfishly from the science, we need as many brains as possible.”

The Spirit of the Game

Decades later, an era of Ultimate Frisbee players remains a team // By Jill C. Shomer

Every September for the last 35 years, alumni from the early days of Columbia's Ultimate Frisbee team reunite to eat V&T and play the game that brought them together. Or at least a version of it. As Stephen Kane '80, LAW'83, who was on the team from 1976 to 1983, tells it with a laugh, "Two or three years ago, we decided that Ultimate is not the best for 60-something-year-old people."

The former teammates play Frisbee golf now — using *Alma Mater* and the bust in Van Am Quad as "holes" to toss at — but what keeps the reunions going is their fond memories of the ragtag group they were in the late 1970s, and their dedication to the team's founder, the late David "Buddha" Meyer '77.

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of Meyer's contribution: The men's Ultimate Frisbee team (now called Uptown Local) was born in fall 1973. The sport had been invented by students at Columbia High School (no relation) in Maplewood, N.J., five years earlier in 1968. Ultimate is played similarly to soccer or football, but with a Frisbee instead of a ball and with limited physical contact; points are scored by flinging the disc to a teammate in the opposing end zone.

Team photo from the 1978 yearbook.

David Meyer '77

Critically, the game was created with a loose, hippie ethos — as "an anti-sport," one Columbia H.S. alumnus told *The New York Times* in 2008. To that end, Ultimate is played without referees; instead, it is guided by "Spirit of the Game," a principle that places responsibility for fair play on the player. Competitiveness is encouraged, but never at the expense of respect, adherence to the rules or the joy of playing.

Ultimate became an intercollegiate sport in the early '70s, as Columbia H.S. graduates went on to found teams at their new schools. Meyer was one of them, bringing the game to the College as a club sport in his first semester. It took a while to catch on — Columbia's team didn't notch a win until September 1976, when they defeated Yale. (That happened to be Kane's first game. "A coincidence? I think not," he jokes.)

The recordkeeping of that era is as shaggy as you might expect for late-1970s Frisbee, but Kane has made an effort to keep track. In spring 1977, Meyer recruited players from other Columbia sports teams, including Jerry McManus '89, GSAS'97 (baseball) and Michael Forlenza '78 (football), along with Mark Silverschotz '78, who had picked up some disc skills at Rutgers before transferring to the College. With an improved 8–4 record that season, the team qualified to play in the Eastern Ultimate Frisbee Championships in Amherst; they lost to Penn State, who eventually took the crown.

COURTESY STEPHEN KANE '80, LAW'83

Top row, left to right: Mark Silverschotz '78; Christopher Betts '84; Robert Kennelly SEAS'81, BUS'84; Jerry McManus '89, GSAS'97; Christopher Schmidt '81, GSAS'83, BUS'85; Noemi Cicconi; Stephen Kane '80, LAW'83; Joseph Strothman '84; Michael Forlenza '78; Leslie Fritzemeier SEAS'84; Stephen O'Keefe '81; and Mauricio Matiz SEAS'84. **Bottom row, left to right:** Hyung Lee '84; James Drennan '84; Paul Tvetenstrand SEAS'82, SIPA'82, LAW'83; Philip Hirschhorn '84; Ernest Cicconi '81; and Jeffrey Coffin SEAS'83.

The team kept the momentum going and started to gain traction. "What we realized was, we had achieved a degree of athleticism that was consistent with our collective abilities," Silverschotz says. Kane agrees: "Columbia was a more athletic team than most teams were, that was our strength."

Co-captains Kane and McManus provided solid leadership. "Every time we would score, Jerry would huddle the team and say, 'Let's just get one more,'" Silverschotz recalls. "And that's how we built each game — point by point, being consistent, working together."

By spring 1978, it was the best of times: Columbia Ultimate was undefeated in the regular season. A major victory was the 22–15 defeat of Rutgers, who were then top ranked nationally; Kane smiles thinking back on that David and Goliath moment. "For us to go in there and blow them out, that was a huge, huge upset," he says.

Befitting that moment of glory, photos of the team practicing on South Field appeared in the sports section of *The New York Times*. Then suddenly, in September 1978, it was the worst of times: Their beloved founder Meyer suffered a cerebral aneurysm and fell into a coma. He passed away in 1983.

"Buddha was an incredible guy. He was a great player," Kane says. "Everybody knew him. They did these Frisbee tournaments at the Rose Bowl in the '70s, the top players in the country — everyone knew him. He had an unusual throw, no one else could do it: an air-bounce wrist flip. He had perhaps the finest of those ever."

"He was one of a kind," Silverschotz says.

The team honored Meyer with a terrific fall 1978 15–3 season. The highlight was the season finale victory against archrival Princeton; the team pranked their nemesis by arriving to the game 90 minutes late, in a hearse they had purchased for the occasion for less than $1,000.

And now, decades later, players from that era — the "Old Blue" — faithfully come back to Morningside Heights every September to keep Buddha's memory and their team spirit alive. Silverschotz's voice catches when he talks about the reunions: "When you're on a team and you have common experiences with your teammates, your ability to relive them — to break into peals of hysterical laughter recollecting who did what to whom when — it allows you to travel back to those years," he says.

"When you're with your friends that you've been friends with for 40-plus years, it's easy to feel young again."

FROM THE GRIDIRON

Poppe Named Head Football Coach

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COURTESY COLUMBIA ATHLETICS / STOCKTON PHOTO

Jon Poppe, an assistant coach on Al Bagnoli's staff at Columbia for three seasons before spending the 2023 season as head coach at Union College, has rejoined the Lions as the Patricia and Shepard Alexander Head Coach of Football. He is the 22nd head coach in the program's history.

Poppe succeeds Mark Fabish, who was interim head coach after Bagnoli retired due to health concerns just before the start of the 2023 season.

As head coach at Union, Poppe guided the Garnet Chargers, who compete in the Liberty League, to a 10–2 record. His squad scored 32.6 points per game and allowed just 11.4 ppg, the eighth lowest in the nation; they advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III Tournament.

A 2007 graduate of Williams, Poppe has more than a decade of coaching experience in the Ivy League. At Columbia, he was secondary coach and recruiting coordinator from 2015 to 2017. His secondary unit twice led the Ivy League in pass defense and in 2017 he helped the Lions post an 8–2 record, their best since 1996. In that season, Columbia led the league with 13 interceptions and was second in points allowed (17.5 ppg).

He also had two stints with Harvard (2011–14, 2018–22) as secondary and special teams coach, where his units were among the best in the country at the NCAA Division I Football Championship Series level. Previously, he was an intern assistant coach at King's (Pa.) College (2007), a graduate assistant coach at Springfield (2008–09) and an assistant secondary coach at Holy Cross (2010).

Poppe takes over a team that dipped to a 3–7 record in 2023 after compiling winning records in four of the previous five seasons under Bagnoli.

THE CLIMATE CHIEF

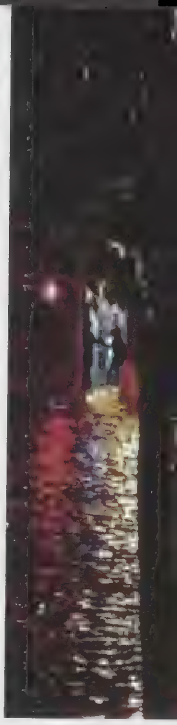
ROHIT T. AGGARWALA '93 IS PREPARING NEW YORK CITY TO MEET THE EXISTENTIAL THREAT OF A WARMING PLANET

BY JAMIE KATZ '72, BUS'80 | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÖRG MEYER

Day by day, year by year, the glaciers of Alaska keep melting, while at the other end of the planet, massive Antarctic icebergs calve into the Southern Ocean. Siberian permafrost continues to thaw, unearthing tons of methane gas and the carcasses of 50,000-year-old wooly mammoths. With catastrophic weather events becoming ever more frequent and ferocious, New Zealand scientists have floated the idea of adding a Category 6 to the hurricane scale.

For Rohit T. Aggarwala '93, BUS'00, GSAS'02, these are not merely disturbing facts. Facing the threat of climate change is his mission and calling. He is New York City's first chief climate officer, and, if there's any remaining skepticism about the magnitude of Earth's predicament, he could undoubtedly produce terabytes of evidence to make the case — record temperatures, sea level rise, displaced populations, epidemiological risks, the death of coral reefs and much more. Or he could simply point to an announcement most of us probably missed: "In late 2020 the National Climate Assessment officially recategorized New York City from the continental climate zone to the subtropical climate zone," Aggarwala says. "In other words, you don't live where you thought you lived."

Acknowledging that reality, Mayor Eric Adams appointed Aggarwala to the newly created climate



"HURRICANE SANDY SHIFTED THE DISCUSSION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS SOMETHING FROM THE FUTURE TO SOMETHING IN THE PRESENT."

post soon after taking office in January 2022. The move signaled the heightened priority of addressing environmental threats and streamlined the city's bureaucracy by uniting existing programs promoting sustainability, resilience, decarbonization and environmental justice. At the same time, Aggarwala was named commissioner of the city's 5,700-employee, $4 billion Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), responsible for a broad portfolio: a billion-gallon daily water supply; an enormous sewer system; 19 reservoirs; wastewater treatment at 14 separate plants; hazardous materials remediation and environmental pollution of all kinds.

"It is evident to anyone who opens their eyes that we are in the midst of a climate crisis in this city and around the world," Adams said at the press conference announcing Aggarwala's appointment. "It's time to think outside the box and determine how we can handle the crisis before it's too late."

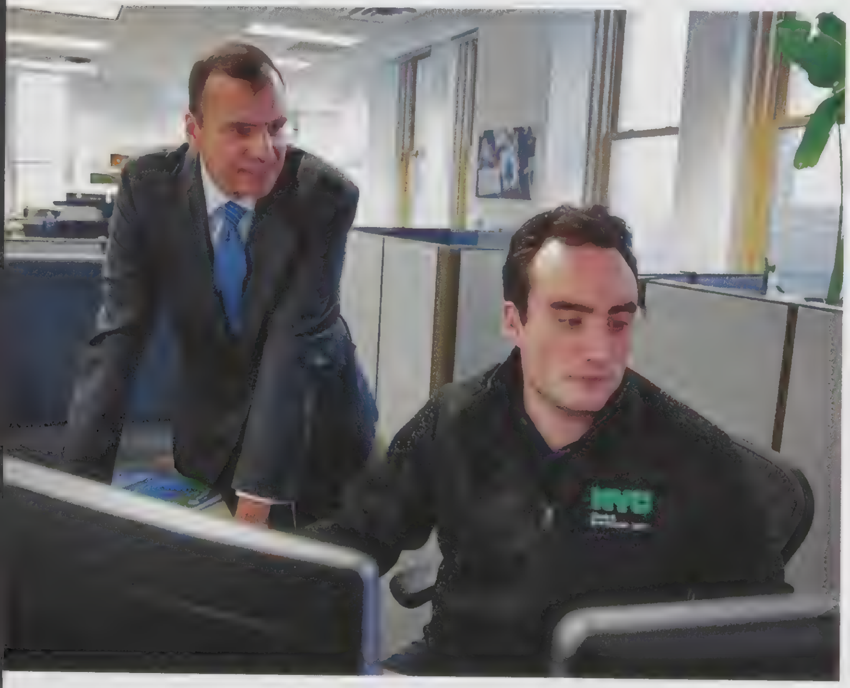
"I have two jobs," Aggarwala says. "One, to ensure that New York City is making progress on climate change, and the other, to ensure that our water system is working well today and getting ready to face the challenges of the future." The dual role makes sense, he believes. "Climate is no longer just a policy issue; it's also an operating issue. We've moved from deciding whether we're going to work on climate change to actually making the daily implementation decisions about how that's going to play out." A word he uses often is "operationalize." Move from theory to practice. Make it happen.

Looming over Aggarwala's sprawling mission is the urgent need to curb greenhouse gases, affirmed yet again by the international agreement at December's COP28 conference in Dubai. "If you know you're in the middle of a problem, the first thing you have to do is stop making the problem worse," he says. This requires long-range strategic planning and near-term transformations in energy, transportation and other sectors.

The city's goals are ambitious: reduce carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050, the target date for full carbon neutrality. To that end, New York is banking heavily on two programs: congestion pricing for vehicular traffic entering Manhattan, and Local Law 97, which requires building owners to meet benchmark emissions standards.

The most immediate threat, however, is water — from the sky above, and from the rivers, bays, harbor and ocean coastline that have long nourished the region's life and prosperity. Already, torrential rainstorms have periodically overwhelmed the sewer systems and caused flash floods. "Everything the science tells us is that it's going to get worse before it stabilizes," Aggarwala said in a CNBC interview last October. "Climate is changing faster than our infrastructure can keep up."

THE ARRIVAL of Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 was an obvious turning point. Thanks to an unlucky convergence of weather and tidal patterns, which caused an already destructive Category 1 hurricane to become a superstorm, Sandy unleashed a mighty 14-foot storm surge into New York Harbor, inundating the subway system, major tunnels and hundreds of city blocks. Power outages crippled the city, darkening all of Manhattan below 30th Street; with typical New York cheek, the area was immediately dubbed SoPo, as in South of Power. But the toll was no joking matter: The hurricane killed 44 residents in the five boroughs; damaged some 69,000 residential units; and caused an estimated $19 billion in economic losses. The cost of



Aggarwala with Marty Fatooh, an intergovernmental affairs manager at the Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice.

DAVID SHANKBONE / WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY / PATRICK CASHIN

Hurricane Sandy devastated New York City on October 29–30, 2012. Left, flooding on Avenue C at East 6th Street; right, seawater filled the South Ferry subway station.

repairing and rebuilding was even higher. Much of the U.S. East Coast and several Caribbean islands were also hard hit.

"Hurricane Sandy shifted the discussion of climate change as something from the future to something in the present," Aggarwala says. "The images of New York City flooding were stunning. People around the world took that as a wake-up call. Because if it could happen in New York, it could happen in Tokyo, it could happen in London, it could happen in all sorts of places. And the reality is, it has." The international catalog of climate disasters grows longer every year: killer heat waves in Great Britain; wildfires in Quebec; floods in Hong Kong and Brazil. "I think when we look back someday," Aggarwala says, "we'll realize that Sandy was the one that kind of bent the curve."

Accordingly, he has foregrounded coastal resilience as a top priority, addressing storm surges and rising sea levels, as well as tidal flooding, extreme rainfall, underground drainage, sewer capacity and the protection of critical infrastructure such as electrical substations and pumping stations. The task is extraordinarily complex and expensive, requiring city, state and federal participation. "The overall cost of coastal protections for all of New York Harbor is estimated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be at least $52 billion," Aggarwala says.

Especially critical are a pair of long-term plans targeting the Manhattan shoreline from East 25th Street southward along the East River to the Battery, and then northward along the Hudson to Chambers Street. Long in the works, these efforts have proven to be enormously challenging undertakings that entail constructing a system of berms, seawalls and gates, and creating new riverside parks and demolishing existing ones, to the dismay of some local residents.

One project that has worked out well so far can be found in Far Rockaway, Queens, where the Army Corps built an elevated oceanfront berm that is integrated with the beach. It has survived nicely through several storms, including the especially severe one at high tide two days before Christmas 2022. "That part of the Rockaways actually got no flooding," Aggarwala notes.

Less successful has been a torturous venture with the Army Corps to build a seawall protecting the south shore of Staten Island, where the largest number of lives were lost during Hurricane Sandy.

"That project is many years late, and I think it typifies some of the problems that we face," he says. "Radioactive material was found at one of the sites, and you have a dozen different agencies involved." What's more, while the Army Corps was building the seawall, the city and DEP had to step in to avoid what they foresaw as a major drainage problem. "If you build a seawall to keep water out, you're also going to keep stormwater in. And so, we've had to redesign it, but do it to their standards, and that itself has led to about two years of delays.

"It's fascinating to me," he adds, "that it is really the nuts and bolts of how you move these projects forward that makes the difference, far more than designing them or even raising the money."

NO STRANGER to the labyrinthine ways of municipal government — he was a top environmental advisor to Mayor Michael Bloomberg from 2006 to 2010 — Aggarwala brings an impressive background to his latest challenge.

Born and raised in White Plains, N.Y., he attended public schools except for a stint at St. Stephen's School in Rome, when his father, Narinder Aggarwala JRN'65, SIPA'71, was posted there with the U.N.'s World Food Programme. During his time at the College, Rohit, known to all as Rit (rhymes with "wit"), majored in American history, wrote a regular column for *Spectator,* served as president of the College Democrats and graduated magna cum laude.

He went on to earn a master's in history from Queen's College in Kingston, Ontario, returning to Columbia to pursue an M.B.A. in finance and eventually a Ph.D. in American history. His dissertation explored New York's eclipse of Philadelphia as the nation's leading city in the early 19th century; famed urban historian Kenneth Jackson, who had mentored him as an undergrad, was his thesis advisor.

Aggarwala was a consultant at McKinsey & Co. for several years before joining Bloomberg's City Hall team; there, he established himself as an expert in urban environmental issues, quarterbacking the PlaNYC long-term blueprint for sustainable development. Among other professional ventures between mayors, he founded the environmental grantmaking program at Bloomberg Philanthropies, headed the board of directors of the global C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and helped launch a Google technology startup, Sidewalk Labs, focusing on urban systems innovation.

Through it all, Aggarwala has maintained his serious involvement in Columbia life. As a grad student he taught Contemporary Civilization from 2000 to 2002 and was elected to the University Senate. He was one of two students on the presidential search committee that led to the appointment of Lee C. Bollinger and has served on the Columbia College Alumni Association's Board of Directors. For the past 10 years he has taught at SIPA, leading a class on the politics and policy of urban sustainability. It's billed as a policy course, he says, "but it's really a history class in disguise." (He teaches a similar course at Cornell Tech each fall.) He is proud that his class selected him for SIPA's Outstanding Teacher Award last year. Aggarwala knows how great teaching can inspire a student: "I first heard about climate change in Wally Broecker ['53, GSAS'58]'s class on the design and maintenance of a habitable planet," he says.

Aggarwala lives on the Upper East Side with his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Robilotti '99, PH'03, and their three young daughters. Something of a renaissance man, he has registered three patents (one granted, two pending) for environmental processes. He also runs marathons and continues to publish historical research; his latest topic: NYC's role as a British administrative center in the 18th century.

AGGARWALA has no byline on his most influential publication — *PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done*, the strategic plan for a greener New York — yet he was an indispensable manager of the team that produced it. First issued in 2007 by the Bloomberg administra-

Aggarwala surveys the Hunts Point Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility in the Bronx; DEP is investing $368 million to replace aging infrastructure with more efficient, sustainable and reliable systems.

COURTESY NYC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HAPPILY, GREENING NEW YORK IS NOT ALL ABOUT STRUGGLE AND CHANGE.

COURTESY NYC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Last March, Aggarwala joined Mayor Eric Adams and others for the groundbreaking of a $1.6 billion infrastructure project that will prevent up to 12 million gallons of sewer overflow from polluting the Gowanus Canal.

tion, the plan was updated and reissued in April 2023. Both congestion pricing and the Local Law 97 mandates were proposed in the original report. And both plans have generated controversy.

Under Local Law 97, stiff fines await the owners of buildings larger than 25,000 square feet who fail to meet emission standards. (By way of comparison, consider that Hamilton Hall is 87,639 square feet.) So far, the pace of conversion has exceeded expectations. Nonetheless, the high cost of compliance is onerous for many non-luxury building owners and low- and middle-income tenants, whose rents will likely rise. The city recently allowed landlords to apply for relaxation of the schedule, provoking howls from some environmental activists.

Meanwhile, congestion pricing — which Bloomberg News has called "the most important transportation experiment in decades" — is set to begin as early as May. Based on pioneering theoretical work by Columbia economist William Vickrey GSAS'47, the plan calls for a $15 fee for cars entering Manhattan between the Battery and 60th Street during business hours, with the aim of unclogging traffic, reducing air pollution and subsidizing mass transit.

The prospect of paying a steep fee on top of the high cost of tolls, gas and parking is not sitting well with many drivers, especially those from New Jersey, whose governor has filed suit. Staten Island's borough president calls the fees "highway robbery" — literally. Others point out that mass transit is difficult or inconvenient from many places in the metropolitan area, or for people who have no practical choice. The greener options of cycling or walking might be swell for people with a short commute; try doing it every day, in every kind of weather, from Bensonhurst or Throgs Neck.

Aggarwala is not inclined to budge.

"The U.S. Department of Energy sees the implementation of Local Law 97 as a matter of national importance," he says. "And if New York City implements congestion pricing and gets it right, I think we're going to have a number of other cities around the country embrace it before too long." Furthermore, he notes, "When cities around the world have implemented congestion pricing, whether it's London or Singapore, Stockholm or Milan, it actually leads those people who have better alternatives to *use* the alternatives, which makes the driving easier for the people who have no alternatives."

Happily, greening New York is not all about struggle and change. There is a program in place to plant a million trees, providing shade and beautifying neighborhoods while removing tons of carbon dioxide — who could oppose that? And there are some delightful nuggets, such as the city's Bluebelt initiative. "We designed lakes and wetlands, engineered them and connected them to storm sewers so that they could become excess holding capacity for massive amounts of rainwater," Aggarwala notes. Thirty have been developed so far, mostly on Staten Island and in southeast Queens; he envisions a citywide network. Similarly, some 12,000 much smaller rainwater gardens have been installed to direct sewer runoff to gardening use.

Another project is what he calls "cloudburst" designs; public spaces such as neighborhood basketball courts are lowered by around three feet, so they can serve as holding areas for excess water. "That gives you some steps and nice stadium seating around the side," Aggarwala says. "People love that."

In the end, all of these projects, large and small, will be judged by whether they contribute to the survival of New York as a thriving city. We are in the critical decade of the climate fight, Aggarwala believes. This is no time to relent or back off. "I have three kids," he says. "Giving up is not an option."

Former CCT *editor* **Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80** *has held senior editorial positions at* People, Vibe *and* Latina *magazines and has contributed regularly to* Smithsonian Magazine. *His most recent* CCT *piece was the Online Exclusive "Jim Gardner '70: The Toast of Philadelphia."*

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king Rooms for Everyone

Editor-in-chief Asad Syrkett '11 is redesigning the mission at *Elle Decor*

By Jill C. Shomer

Photographs by Jörg Meyer

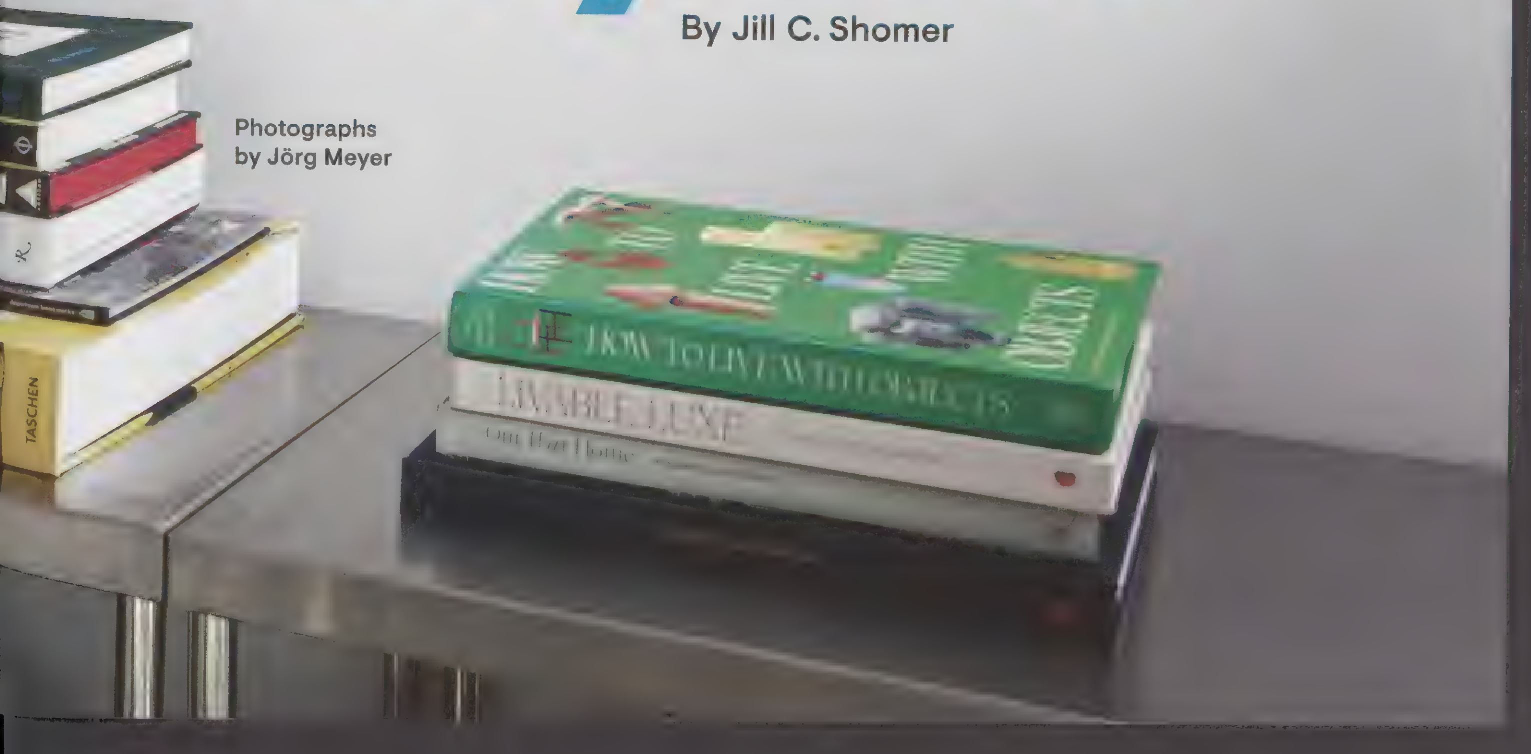
What does it mean to be a tastemaker today? Can an interior design magazine be aspirational, but still reflect what's happening in the world? Is beauty a luxury, or a necessity?

These are the questions that are top of mind for Asad Syrkett '11. As the editor-in-chief of *Elle Decor,* the glossy Hearst brand that feasts the eyes of more than half a million subscribers and 4.4 million Instagram followers, his editorial mission is to "inspire readers to make their worlds more beautiful, one room at a time."

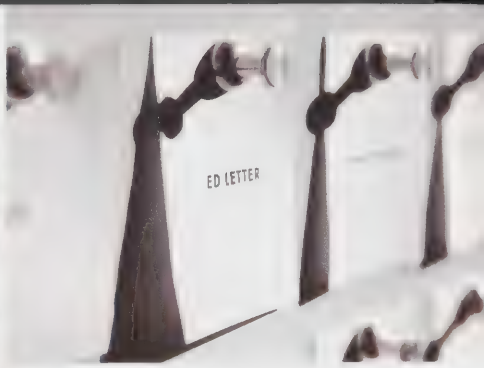
Even just skimming the *Elle Decor* website is a euphoric experience, a perfect marriage of sumptuous photography and clever headlines. Style lovers are treated to home tours ("This Chic Ibiza Escape Is a Full-On Party House"); design trends ("The Future of Color Is Pretty Much 'Barbenheimer'"); and life and culture hot takes ("*Beetlejuice* Is the Ultimate Home Reno Movie").

But Syrkett also believes that beauty should not just be surface deep. "Interior design magazines have always been about fantasy — always," he says. "But I do feel we have a responsibility to engage with things that are happening in reality."

Things were quite real in September 2020 when Syrkett took the magazine's helm. Working virtually, he and the *Elle Decor* team got busy creating content for the moment, polling the design community about how Covid-19 had upended our relationships to home, and adding more experiential personal essays to the mix. Unable to develop in-person show houses,



Syrkett with *Elle Decor's* senior interiors editor Bebe Howorth (left) and senior design writer Camille Okhio.



"I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THOSE THINGS SO MUCH, IN THE POWER OF BEAUTIFYING OUR SPACES AND OUR HOMES AND OUR CITIES."

the brand collaborated with the newly established Black Artists and Designers Guild on a virtual concept house that launched in January 2021.

Since then, Syrkett has prioritized opening doors: from featuring more diverse representation (in the magazine's pages, as well as who's behind the camera and writing the stories) to using more fun and approachable language. He's also made space for provocative pieces, such as an op-ed about the problematic use of chinoiserie and a review of an African art exhibition that considers the effects of colonization.

"Asad's vision is clear and strong but also always evolving — that makes for a magazine that everyone looks forward to reading each month," says Stellene Volandes, editor-in-chief of *Town & Country* and *Elle Decor*'s editorial director. "And he always has a surprise up his sleeve, which I believe is essential for a brand that is turning 35 this year. His *Elle Decor* delivers what readers love and need, but also introduces them to the best of the new."

At 34, he is currently the youngest EIC at Hearst; he says it doesn't come up in a daily way, but it does inform his obligation to bring more of his peers into the conversation.

"I hope that people my age and people who enjoy interior design but don't necessarily have the budgets of the people whose homes we feature will get interested in what we're covering," he says. "Not just for a sense of aspiration, but also because we are engaging with them where they are now. Like, here are some things you can do to replicate this style in your own home, or here are some people you should know who are doing incredible work."

Syrkett feels lucky to have beauty be the center of his professional world — "and my own world, in so many ways," he says. "It's a rarefied zone I'm working in, to write about homes where people spare no expense when it comes to amazing craft. And I believe in the power of those things so much, in the power of beautifying our spaces and our homes and our cities."

SYRKETT GREW UP IN NYC, mostly in Harlem, with an innate curiosity about the design and historic architecture that surrounded him. A self-described "big book nerd," he says he was always begging to be taken to the landmark Hamilton Grange library, which dazzled with its Italian Renaissance style. He also loved the fossil impressions and bronze renderings that line the walls of the train station near the American Museum of Natural History. "I think we underestimate the power of the public art that is in the subway," he says.

His family moved to the suburbs when he was 12; though Syrkett enjoyed his time at The Lawrenceville School ("I was a huge Harry Potter fan, and it was the closest you could get to Hogwarts in central New Jersey"), he was itching to return to New York. And he knew he wanted to go to Columbia. "Campus was only 30 blocks from where I had grown up. It felt like this incredibly storied and amazing institution," he says. "And the Core just sounded like a dream."

Lit Hum was all that and more for Syrkett; he credits the course for his understanding of the importance of storytelling, and says that reading fiction remains his central way of processing the world. But it was Art Hum, along with "Greek Art and Architecture," both taken in his first year, that really set him on his path. "I was all in on art historical inquiry and I wanted to take those classes as soon as I could," Syrkett says. "I was so excited to learn about the things that I observed in the world but didn't have a ton of context for, like architectural vocabulary and the history of certain stylistic modes."

Smitten, Syrkett majored in history and theory of architecture, and interned for two summers at *Architectural Record* before being hired as an assistant editor after graduation. He climbed the editorial ladder with stints at *Architectural Digest* and the real estate news site Curbed; as a senior editor there, he was named to *Folio*'s 2017 "30 Under 30" list for spotlighting a diverse cross-section of voices in the design industry. In 2019, eager for a new challenge, Syrkett leapt to the international furniture brand Hem, where he managed New York operations and East Coast business development.

A year later, *Elle Decor* called. During that tumultuous summer of pandemic and protest, Syrkett and Volandes discussed how they might adjust the magazine's focus to address what was happening in the world. The next issue, January/February 2021, featured an article that queried a dozen interior designers and architects about what their clients had asked for in response to the pandemic, and their design strategies to help mitigate the risk of infection.

"A lot of clients were asking for antechambers, so you could come into the house and have a space to wash your hands and put all those packages, because we were all ordering more things online than we ever had," Syrkett explains. "And just rearranging space in ways that are more epidemiologically safe, to have some division between inside and outside.

"It felt very brass tacks and definitely *not* in the world of fantasy," he says. "But if we are a magazine that is going to try to reflect the times, we have to find a way to speak to the moment we are in."

FOR SYRKETT, foregrounding diversity and inclusion means drawing attention to a wider segment of the design community. "It's not just about racial diversity, although that is centrally important to me as a Black editor-in-chief and as a person who craves being myself in as much of the media I consume as possible," he says. "But it's also that there are people doing amazing work outside of New York, outside of Los Angeles, outside of Paris, outside of London — who are they? Where are they? If they're in Cape Town working in craft traditions, or beading or clay, that's really interesting to me. I want to know how they work and what those traditions are like."

Syrkett also has a particular way he wants to speak to the readers. He enjoys being a tastemaker, and wants the brand to channel the voice of your most informed friend. "It's fun to point people in a direction they might not have gone on their own," Syrkett says. "To say, 'I know you've seen *that*, but have you seen *this*?' And kind of turn the camera around to focus on something else. If you love a minimalist color palette, maybe you'll love a warmer modernism with color, or even some pattern and texture."

Shaking up the brand's language has been key. The voice in many shelter magazines can run a bit cool and gracious, a bit aloof. Syrkett has worked to identify a tone that's more immediate and lets readers in on the conversation. "We try to have a little fun, throw a little whimsy, a little cheek in there — why not? We want people to feel like we're engaging them and not keeping them at a distance.

"I'm a Leo, and we appreciate grandeur," Syrkett continues. "But I think there is an opportunity to bring grandeur into the conversation in ways that don't feel alienating. It can be a tricky needle to thread, when you have different targets that you're trying to reach. But it's a fun challenge — and the language of the magazine should reflect that."

Asked whether his own relationship to home has changed since Covid, Syrkett considers his apartment in Crown Heights, where he's lived for nine years. "First, I was never so grateful for living in a place that was not an open floor plan," he says with a laugh. "That's something that was invoked stylistically for a long time, but did not facilitate the acoustic privacy that we all sorely needed during Covid."

More seriously, like many people, Syrkett says a real appreciation for the security and safety of home has stayed with him. That feeling has reinforced his belief that beautifying our spaces has power, in part because it creates sanctuary in challenging times.

"We have to feel like we have a place of refuge," Syrkett says. "It could be the physical refuge of our homes, or the emotional refuge of community and engagement with other people who are into the same things we are. Maybe that's interior design, or architecture, or antiques, or like, great paint swatches, or whatever the thing may be."

WHAT BECOMES A LEGEND MOST?

Syrkett thumbs through the March 2021 magazine, his first official issue at the helm.

He is a fan of the late designer Alexander McQueen, who famously said of his need for glamour: "I'm an avid follower of the news, and sometimes you just can't take any more war, any more disasters, and you want to remind yourself that there's beauty in the world."

For Syrkett, "I have found I'm much more effective at engaging with the world outside of interior design when I have this place to fall back on, when I have this thing that I love so much as an area for engagement in my life," he says. "That's why it's so important to seek out a place to refuel yourself, so that you can go back out and engage with the world in the ways that you think will make a positive change."

60 YEARS OF SHAKING THINGS UP WITH THE COLUMBIA BARTENDING AGENCY

EDUCATION, WITH A *Twist*

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

"SIX NIGHTS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE." Those were the words splashed across *Spec* ads, written on flyers posted around campus, whispered from upperclassmen to new students: Change your life by joining the Columbia Bartending Agency.

Since 1965, the CBA — one of the University's longest-running campus businesses — has given students across all of Columbia's schools and Barnard the opportunity to learn mixology and then take those skills out into the world, slinging drinks across the city. What other activity on campus could let you meet Jackie Robinson or Jane Fonda; get you access to exclusive spaces like The Dakota or Gracie Mansion; or secure you front-row seats to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?

In the CBA's early days, classes were taught by Joseph Reilly, the bar manager at Midtown's historic Barclay Hotel, but by the early '80s students who passed the rigorous CBA exam (after memorizing nearly 200 cocktail recipes!) became the instructors, teaching eager pupils everything from martinis to Manhattans to margaritas. The CBA became independent from the University in 2016 and is now a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit; otherwise, not much has changed in nearly 60 years of shaking and stirring. Read on for memories from 50 years of Columbia mixologists.

Illustrations by Ana Gaman

WHEN ASKED WHY HE JOINED the CBA, **Mike Slater '74** jokes, "I spent a lot of time with alcohol anyway, I thought I ought to make some money at it!" He elaborates: "It was wonderful; I got to see all kinds of people and parts of life in New York that I would never otherwise have seen as an undergraduate. Not just fascinating or casual celebrity sightings, but really just very different worlds, very different communities — and you're right in the middle of them. It was a great experience for a young person."

Doug Bienstock '14 agrees. "I went to embassies, donors' houses, celebrities' houses; it was always cool getting out of my Columbia bubble. This was a really interesting way to see the rest of the city and what New York was all about. Honestly, the CBA was one of the biggest parts of my Columbia experience."

Rules of mixology
TASTE
h
①
1/2 oz. Agave
1 1/2 oz. Tequila
SHAKE
30x

George Sands '73 managed the CBA in his senior year; he recalls meeting Hal Holbrook and Robert Redford at a private party hosted by an Italian director, and had a standout encounter with Jackie Robinson at a party on Riverside Drive: "He was a lovely man, so graceful; a really good guy."

Jeremy Dickstein '88 remembers: "In the summer of '86, there was a big national benefit called Hands Across America. There were maybe a dozen or so tugboats scattered around New York Harbor in celebration. And we had a Columbia bartender on each one, bouncing around the harbor, serving the people watching the festivities."

For **Marco Balestri '22,** who managed the CBA through pandemic closures and helped ensure the agency was restored on campus afterward, a standout event was one of the CBA's largest undertakings ever: "We contracted with OctFest, which was a concert series hosted by Pitchfork," he says. "We had about 100 bartenders working for beer and liquor venues from around the world at a two-day festival on Governors Island; I was assigned to a brewery from Barcelona. About 100 of us took the ferry back to the city at midnight, all of us in our black CBA shirts. That was such a fun experience."

Khalid Husani Barnwell '97 recalls getting close to a VIP: "I did an event at a community center on the Lower East Side; it was a charity event or fundraiser. The draw was that Tito Puente was going to perform. Toward the end, the organizers said, 'If you want to watch, you can,' and I ended up almost backstage, watching from the side — basically 10 feet away from Puente as he was performing. That was such a highlight, to be so close — something that I never would have been able to do otherwise."

Dalia Cohen '93, SIPA'93, the CBA's first female manager, says her experience with it was instrumental to her College experience and to feeling at home in NYC: "I was someone who had just gotten off the plane from Zimbabwe, and suddenly I was bartending at gallery openings and book signings and private dinner parties and weddings," she says. "As a foreigner, it also gave me things to do on holidays. I wasn't going to go all the way home, so with the CBA I had the option to do a lot of bartending. One time I was the bartender in an apartment that overlooked the Thanksgiving Day Parade!"

Fred Bremer '74, GSAS'81 notes, "It was probably the only way a college kid could see a lot of New York that they otherwise would not have." He recalls working an event at Dustin Hoffman's townhouse: "I remember waiting, and I was getting things set up downstairs and then I heard him come down the stairs. Just that unique Dustin Hoffman voice."

Amanda Tien '20 bartended for composer Lin-Manuel Miranda twice: "Coming from Detroit, it was quite a way to be introduced to New York City!"

Richard Witten '75 sits on the CBA's executive board and helped incorporate it as an independent 501(c)(3) in 2016. "It was a fantastic source of revenue, and I made lasting friendships with other bartenders in the agency," he says. "And it shone a light on a part of New York City that, as a student, I never would have seen; in those days it was pretty easy to be insular and just stay on campus. Those were not easy times in New York. This sort of forced you out into the real world of the city, which wasn't nearly as scary as people would lead you to believe."

His highlights include working a New Year's Eve party at a palatial Dakota apartment, and bartending at a party for James Taylor and Roberta Flack. "They performed in this massive loft," Witten says. "My jaw was dropping, being that close to these people."

IN THE CBA CLASSES, students take notes on everything from methods of mixing cocktails to understanding flavor profiles to preventing allergy contamination. Five consecutive weeks of two-hour sessions (one hour each of lecture and practical time) culminate in a final exam; students who receive a 95 percent or above are eligible to interview to join the agency as bartenders and instructors. The exam could throw any kind of curveball: Alumni recall being given off-the-wall drink orders like a Grasshopper or a Pink Squirrel, along with requests to tell a joke or recount a funny memory to highlight their multitasking skills. But for the students who make it into the CBA, becoming a bartender is more than just pouring drinks.

Dickstein heard about the CBA during his freshman year: "It certainly looked a lot more flexible, lucrative and attractive than checking IDs at the library or flipping burgers, so I was intrigued." He continues, "It was a fun social activity, and it paid better than normal campus jobs. For someone like me, who was probably a little more shy and introverted in high school, the whole bartending experience — from working for the CBA to later running it — really helped me to be a much more outgoing, social, extroverted guy. I showed up as a shy freshman, and I ended up being on committees, doing things like Residence Hall. I think the bartending was quite important in getting me out of my shell."

Michael Behringer '89 says he picked up great skills from his time in the CBA: "I was a financial aid student and was always looking for opportunities for good jobs that were fun. I remember that course so vividly because we had such a great time taking it and experimenting with cocktails. The lessons that you learn from bartending serve you throughout life — how to deal with people, how to have conversations, how to make everyone feel welcome."

Other students agree that bartending was a great way to have a flexible income. **Marie Craft '88** says, "My parents weren't keen on me working while I was studying. So this was one way I could earn a little money on the side." Barnwell joined the summer before his senior year: "I was also running track, so most of my weekends were gone. I took advantage of the events that were happening on weeknights and Sundays. The CBA gave me the time to have an extra job."

Matt Sodl '88 remembers the great conversations and connections: "People at these parties liked to talk to the bartender; they want to talk about your education, and when I would tell people I'm a football player, that obviously got a lot of conversation going, too. It was a great icebreaker and a way to meet a lot of people." **Kimberly Yao '96** says, "I think that there's something fantastic about being in a position where you're interacting with different people. One of the nicest things about the agency was this sense of conviviality and the opportunity to interact socially with people with whom you might not otherwise come into contact."

Student bartenders teach and manage the agency themselves, assigning jobs, organizing schedules and balancing finances. For many students, the CBA was their first taste of what a real-world job would be like. **Uchenna Acholonu '96** notes, "The class was a lot of fun as a student, but then honestly it was much, much more fun as a teacher. I definitely refer to myself as a professor of mixology. Everybody had their own little take on the class, but I really liked to focus on the history of some of the drinks we would serve and the history of the type of alcohol. After college, I taught high school for a while and I definitely drew upon some of my CBA classroom persona."

Cohen agrees, "Of all my college experiences, this was one that truly educated me and gave me practical knowledge about how to think about managing people."

Bienstock says, "About halfway through [my time with the CBA], I started teaching and writing the curriculum, so I did fewer gigs, but that experience was just awesome. The group of teachers was so diverse and so fun, and the energy we had — I so enjoyed working with them, and we got to be really close friends. We were teaching students from all different walks of life and even people from outside the University! My first real job came out of the CBA; I was one of the first bartenders at Jacob's Pickles. Before they opened the restaurant, the bar managers took our class, and then they asked us to provide bartenders who wanted to interview. I helped get their cocktail program off the ground and got to work in a real bar."

"I WENT TO EMBASSIES, DONORS' HOUSES, CELEBRITIES' HOUSES; IT WAS ALWAYS COOL GETTING OUT OF MY COLUMBIA BUBBLE. THIS WAS A REALLY INTERESTING WAY TO SEE THE REST OF THE CITY AND WHAT NEW YORK WAS ALL ABOUT."

Many CBA alumni now hire from the agency to staff bartenders for their own social events; both Sands and Behringer spoke about how they have enjoyed connecting with younger generations of Columbians this way. For **Ana Salper '96**, things have truly come full circle: "One of my favorite memories — and I'm 49 so this particularly resonates with me — was working for three women who were turning 50; they were celebrating together because they were best friends. They had gone to Barnard, I believe.

"I was in the kitchen preparing hors d'oeuvres and the three of them came in and they were just laughing and giggling hysterically. There was just so much love. I said, 'What's going on?' and they said, 'We all turned 50 this year and we never thought we would still be having parties together when we were 50. But here we are!' They were very, very happy. I remember thinking it was so aspirational, like, 'If I'm like them when I'm 50 and I still have my close friends from college, I've done something right with my life.' And I do still have those friends! So I love that."

CORECONVERSATIONS

We ask five professors what it's like to teach the Core today

Photographs by
Emma Asher

THE CORE CURRICULUM has been the cornerstone of a Columbia College education since its inception in 1919. This past fall we launched the online series "Core Conversations"; each month we speak with a Core instructor to learn what they love about engaging with College students. The series has allowed us to hear firsthand what the curriculum means to the professors and lecturers who are guiding the latest generation, along with how they're evolving their approaches to suit the world today. Read on for a sampling of what they had to say; check out the full interviews at college.columbia.edu.

Literature Humanities

Dhananjay Jagannathan

Assistant Professor
of Philosophy

What has been your favorite Lit Hum teaching moment?

For me it's more the question of, "What was your most significant teaching moment?" I was teaching Lit Hum when the Covid-19 pandemic reached New York City in spring 2020, and we were all sent home. One of the texts that we were reading was Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground*. The descriptions and comments on society, while trapped inside, were very poignant. Not just for the students, but also for me — teaching classes from my dining room table, having hastily taken my books and my desktop computer from my office in the middle of the night. My students were scattered around the country, and sometimes around the world, Zooming into classes in sometimes difficult circumstances. It was striking to have a text that describes social isolation so powerfully. I think that was quite pertinent to all of us and offered a vehicle to think about those issues with a little bit of remove.

That's one of the nice things about Lit Hum. We're faced with very big and important questions about what it is to be a human being and what the good life for human beings might be. But we're also given the space to engage with them not in a purely practical way, thinking through other people's answers to those questions and how that might relate to our own context but not, precisely, in order to change things; although I think a lot of students find that they're changed by the course — and I certainly find myself changed by teaching it — but in unexpected ways, without an agenda, without a program. So that's one example of a thing that I think happens in less dramatic ways all the time — at least if the class is going well.

Contemporary Civilization

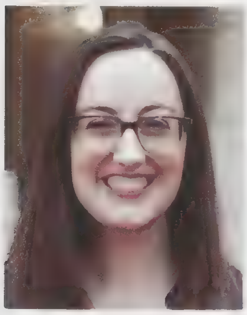
Jerónimo Duarte-Riascos

Assistant Professor
of Latin American
and Iberian Cultures

What is the best part about teaching the Core Curriculum?

It's two things for me. First, it gives me access to a pool of students that I would not have access to if I were only teaching in my own department. One of the things that's so powerful about the Core is having a learning community of students from different backgrounds and interests; it is really powerful in terms of the ways in which you can approach and analyze the texts. It creates an incredible learning dynamic for the students, and for me as well. I think that's something that you can really only get in these kinds of classes.

The second thing is that teaching the Core also gives me access to a generation that's different from my own and allows me to better understand the ways in which that generation approaches opportunities and challenges and possibilities. As I teach the Core again and again, I have started to see some generational variations within students that I find very illuminating.



MUSIC HUMANITIES

Julia Doe

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, HISTORICAL MUSICOLOGY

What has been your favorite Music Hum teaching moment?

One of the defining features of music as an art form is the communal way in which we experience it. Put differently, many pieces of music depend not simply on the interaction of a creator and a solitary consumer, but also on this broader triangulation of author, performers and audience. So the highlight of the semester for me is almost always the trip to the Metropolitan Opera. With hundreds of students in attendance, Columbia basically stages a takeover of the top rungs of the theater to see Puccini's *La bohème* or Verdi's *La traviata* or, recently, Blanchard's *Champion*. This is a fun social occasion, but also an opportunity to reflect on what it means to share an artistic experience in real time and in person with those around us. We will have watched a recording of the opera in question in advance of the performance. Students have very smart observations about the differences between the live and the digitized version of the work, and the trade-offs between accessibility and immersion raised through these diverse means of consuming music. And I think — especially coming out of years of schooling impacted by the pandemic — taking in this massive musical spectacle in a packed house and in our best fancy outfits is not something we take for granted.

FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE

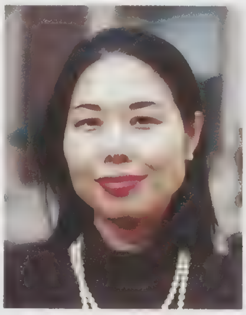
Klejda Bega

LECTURER IN THE DISCIPLINE OF PHYSICS

What are you teaching that feels especially relevant for this moment?

I think that in the world that we live in, it is very important for people to be scientifically literate; for people to be able to think for themselves when they're given a piece of information. To ask, "How do I evaluate this information? How do I know where to go and find the data that will tell me this is how it really works?" And it's even more important now that we have information coming from all sides, whether it's created by humans or by artificial intelligence. The world is becoming more complex and, as such, we have to teach students to think in an even more complex way — to take in interconnected issues as a whole, but also to know how to break them down.

We do not presume that a student will learn all science in one semester of Frontiers of Science; this is not our goal. But by giving them a sampling of how scientists from all disciplines think and how they approach the world and what tools they use in order to understand it? I think that is very valuable. The goal of Frontiers of Science is to teach students how to become good consumers of science, and how to become good critical thinkers using the scientific method. So the idea is that we'll give all these scientific building blocks we have at our disposal, which then they will apply to their own lives.



ART HUMANITIES

Xiaohan Du GSAS'21

LECTURER IN THE DISCIPLINE OF ART HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

How do you put your own spin on teaching Art Hum?

The official title of the class is "Art Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Art," and I think we're all aware of the potential problems with certain wordings in that title. My Ph.D. is in medieval East Asian art. So whenever possible I try to bring in pieces from East Asia — mostly Chinese, Japanese and Korean — and start things off by asking the students to contrast and compare objects from that part of the world with some works that we cover in Art Hum. Oftentimes, that juxtaposition spurs different kinds of conversations that are quite illuminating.

For example, I teach Raphael in relation to the one-point linear perspective and how that transformed visuality to emphasize a rational organization of illusionistic pictorial space in Renaissance Italy. I bring in scenes from a 12th-century Japanese hand scroll, *The Tale of Genji*, and put them side by side with, say, *The Marriage of the Virgin* or *The School of Athens*, and then I ask the students to make sense of the 12th-century Japanese artists' rather different approach to the construction of pictorial space, and how that might have served the pictorial purpose just as eloquently. By doing this, the students become aware that the one-point linear perspective is one among various systems of organizing pictorial space. So that's my way of expanding, if you will, the periphery of "Western art" as defined in Art Hum.

*alumni*news

Contents

32 CCAA Message

33 Bookshelf

34 Lions

Tifphani White-King '98; Isabel Estrada-Jamison '06; Louise Dubin '92; Larry Slaughter '85

36 Class Notes

Just Married!

71 Obituaries

72 Read It Online

David Lehman '70 marks 35 years of celebrating the best American verse.

TREE LIGHTING GIVES COLLEGE WALK A GLOW UP

Hundreds of students turned out on November 30 for the College's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, welcoming the start of another holiday season in Morningside Heights.

DAVID DINI SIPA'14

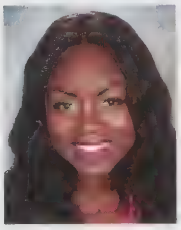
Creating a Connected Community

By Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

Alumni-student connections are the lifeblood of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA), forging a bridge that links Columbia's past with its future. Alumni benefit from the fresh perspectives that students bring, while students gain valuable insights from alumni. There are obvious professional advantages, too, as students learn about different career paths. More importantly, these connections often give students a chance to broaden their views and can even lead to lifelong relationships. One way we help to establish these connections is through Alumni-Hosted Dinners, a CCAA program that invites alumni and students to share a meal right in Morningside Heights.

I have hosted several of these dinners. Conversation typically begins with my perspective about Columbia in the '80s and my experience with the Core Curriculum; it then quickly evolves into a lively exchange about the most popular classes and professors, campus controversies, which dining halls have the best food, and the best places to hang out or study on campus. The students often come from diverse backgrounds and might not know each other. Yet, as they gather around the table, a sense of community emerges.

If you are interested in learning about hosting a dinner on campus, please reach out to the CCAA (ccalumni@columbia.edu). Here, we asked three alumni to share their experience with connecting across generations.



IYOBOSA BELLO-ASEMOTA '19

As an international first-generation/low-income student coming to Columbia after living in both Nigeria and Ireland, the adults in my life could not fully relate to the opportunities and challenges that I was experiencing on and off campus. My alumni mentors really helped to fill that gap. It was great to have a community with a wealth of knowledge and connections that I could tap into to figure out how to navigate not just a new school but also a new country. I made lifelong friendships out of many of those mentoring relationships, and they continue to yield benefits.

One of my most impactful Columbia experiences was attending an alumni-hosted dinner in my junior year. The host, John Rodin '97, today is a mentor, close friend and role model who has helped guide me through several challenging career and personal milestones. That dinner also allowed me to form deeper connections with the other student attendees, many of whom were not in my class, who have gone on to do cool and interesting things. I'm thankful to every alum who generously offers their time to students.

AUSTIN COHEN '11, BUS'16

I have found mentoring and advising to be incredibly rewarding. I recall my days as a student and the value of my conversations with alums who were gracious enough to connect. A Columbia degree is a privilege that extends far beyond four years on campus — and playing a part in the flywheel of sharing knowledge, insights and experience is something that I have always felt strongly about. Helping others to accelerate their paths and to open their minds to opportunities is tactical and applicable, and even imperative to the continued development of young leaders. I recently had the opportunity to spend time with 10 undergrads over dinner, discussing everything from life at school to career decision making. I was incredibly touched by how grateful the students were to have a forum to openly ask questions and to receive candid feedback and guidance.

KHADIJAH SHARIF-DRINKARD '93

I recently hosted a dinner for 10 Columbia students, who were diverse in every respect. While the tensions on campus were running high over the war in the Middle East, I brought students together to remind them of their commonality in the subtlest of ways. We discussed the protests that were happening and the effects it had on them, but we also tackled how to land internships and full-time jobs after graduation. I was so moved by the compassion and courtesy they showed one another that I asked if I could mentor them for the rest of the school year. I want to remain connected to this cohort not only to assist them in their development but also to witness their civility and generosity toward each other — something we can all take a lesson from these days.

The truth is, I gained as much from them as they did from me. I've had the honor of serving as a mentor and sponsor for more than two decades. It has been my life's work. Every interaction has the potential to change someone's perspective and life.

*book*shelf

For the Culture
KLANCY MILLER
AMONG THE BROS
A Fraternity Crime Story
MAX MARSHALL

Melancholia *by Adam Horvath '62.* Oregon poet Horvath details the "wickedly whimsical" mythical land of Melancholia; the collection includes an illustrated map (Babel Editions, $12.95).

The Karabakh Conflict Between Armenia and Azerbaijan: Causes & Consequences *by M. Hakan Yavuz and Michael Gunter '64.* Yavuz and Gunter, a professor of political science at Tennessee Technological University, detail Post-Soviet ethnic conflicts and Russia's involvement in them (Palgrave McMillan, $104.69).

Psychoanalytic Readings of Hawthorne's Romances: Narratives of Unconscious Conflict and Transformation *by Dr. David Diamond '65.* This volume applies Freudian theory to four Nathaniel Hawthorne works, presenting significant new insights into the psychology of the author's characters and their fates (Routledge, $48.95).

In the Field of Unintended Consequences *by Peter Schneider '67.* Schneider's second book of poetry features ecological and philosophical themes, and includes rhyming verse influenced by rap and other popular music (PB&J Books, $16).

Judicial Dispute Resolution: New Roles for Judges in Ensuring Justice *by Lawrence Susskind '68, et al.* The authors describe the ways in which judges, using JDR (a practice similar to mediation), have been facilitating problem solving among litigants and ensuring more just outcomes (Anthem Press, $29.95).

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

The Birth of the Best: The Making of *The Best American Poetry* *by David Lehman '70.* A riveting behind-the-scenes look at the making of the yearly anthology Lehman founded in 1988 (Marsh Hawk Press, $29.72).

Programmable Planet: The Synthetic Biology Revolution *by Ted Anton '79.* Technologies that offer new ways to manufacture medicines, clothing, food and fuels can help confront climate change, break down pollutants and fight novel viruses (Columbia University Press, $35).

At the End of the World: A Fractal Meta-Loco Narrative in E-Flat Major *by Ted Cleary '87.* Cleary's novella is a psychedelic, Pynchon-esque romp through philosophy, jazz and a plausible end-of-the-world scenario (Silver Song Press, $19.99).

Once We Were Home: A Novel *by Jennifer Rosner '88.* Based on the true stories of children stolen during WWII, Rosner's evocative novel raises questions of complicity and responsibility (Flatiron Books, $17.99).

For the Culture: Phenomenal Black Women and Femmes in Food: Interviews, Inspiration, and Recipes *by Klancy Miller '96.* Chef and author Miller profiles extraordinary women from the culinary world, including food stylists, mixologists, hoteliers and influencers (Harvest, $40).

Isaiah and His Contemporaries *by Yaakov Jaffe '02.* Rabbi Jaffe analyzes the book of Isaiah from the Hebrew Bible, as well as other texts written during the First Temple period of Jewish history (Kodesh Press, $24.95).

From CIA to CEO: Unconventional Life Lessons for Thinking Bigger, Leading Better and Being Bolder *by Rupal Patel '02.* Agent-turned-entrepreneur Patel shares the unique skills she developed in the field that have also helped her thrive in the business world (Heligo Books, Kindle edition, $5.99).

Saved by the Bellini: & Other 90s-Inspired Cocktails *by John deBary '05.* This second cocktail book by deBary stirs up '90s nostalgia with more than 60 recipes celebrating the decade's greatest pop culture moments (Union Square & Co., $19.99).

Plunder: Private Equity's Plan to Pillage America *by Brendan Ballou '09.* Federal prosecutor Ballou explains how private equity has reshaped American business by raising prices, reducing quality, cutting jobs and shifting resources (PublicAffairs, $30).

Among the Bros: A Fraternity Crime Story *by Max Marshall '16.* Marshall's debut investigates a multimillion-dollar crime network among fraternity brothers at the College of Charleston (Harper, $30).

Dominus *by Tiffany Troy '18.* This collection of poetry includes a range of characters and inspirations, from Greco-Roman myth to the YouTube animated children's series *Baby Tiger* (BlazeVOX, $18).

— Jill C. Shomer

lions

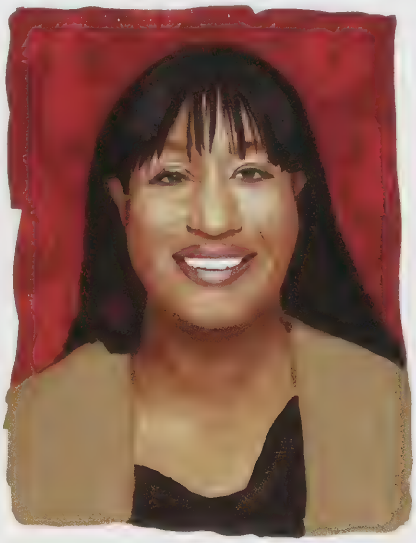
By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09 // Illustrations by Alyssa Carvara

Tifphani White-King '98

It's a big year for heart health: In 2024 the American Heart Association (AHA) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and its signature campaign, Go Red for Women, will mark 20 years of educating women about reducing their risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke. At the center of these milestones is **Tifphani White-King '98,** centennial chair of the 2023–24 New York City Go Red for Women movement.

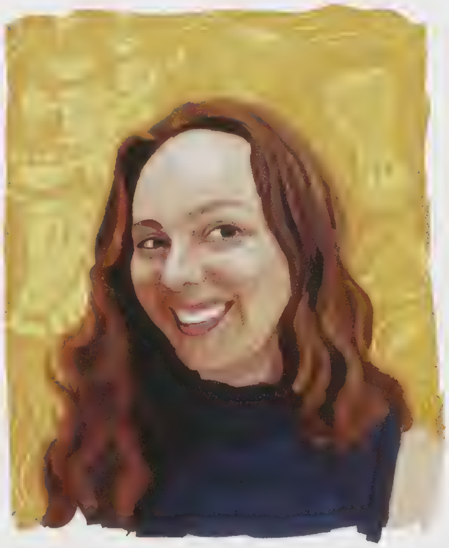
White-King has been involved with the AHA for a decade, and previously was on the executive leadership team for Go Red for Women. Outside of her work with the organization, White-King is the international tax services practice leader for Mazars USA, a global audit, tax and advisory firm.

"Heart disease is the number 1 killer of women," she says, "and symptoms often show up very differently in terms of heart attack and cardiac arrest in women than they do in men." As centennial chair, White-King has four areas she plans to focus on this year: supporting research; empowering communities through education; promoting equity and equality for health care; and fundraising.



"The statistics [around heart disease outcomes] become drastically and staggeringly worse as we look at women — and particularly women of color," White-King says. She has thrown herself into her role, hosting community education and outreach events in underserved communities (a recent walking-themed event in Queens brought cardiologists to the neighborhood to answer questions and teach CPR) and launching major fundraising initiatives. The goal: to raise $3 million this year.

"It's the first time in New York City that we've had a woman of color to champion and lead the campaign," White-King says. "I'm truly honored to be a part of such a milestone."



Isabel Estrada-Jamison '06

"I think I've always been a dancer at heart," says **Isabel Estrada-Jamison '06.** She grew up practicing ballet and modern dance, but it was an early connection to Afro-Cuban dance that led to her current passion for performing and teaching in NYC.

Estrada-Jamison visited Cuba with her mother, a dancer and writer who worked throughout the Spanish-speaking world, in her early teens. She saw a performance by the traditional Afro-Cuban folkloric dance company Raíces Profundas and was struck by the experience. "I don't remember which dance they were doing, but I remember seeing such power in the singers, the drummers and especially the female dancers," she says.

Afro-Cuban folkloric dances developed in Cuba as a result of the combination of diverse traditions brought to the Caribbean by enslaved peoples from different parts of Africa; it is typically accompanied by live drumming and singing. Estrada-Jamison uses live drumming in the Monday night classes she teaches at the Rod Rodgers Dance Company & Studios in the East Village, warming up with modern Afro-Cuban dance and then teaching traditional folkloric routines. "I think what draws me to Afro-Cuban dance is how it represents the turning of pain, anger and sorrow into art. I grew up pretty disconnected from much of my family and I think there is something about Afro-Cuban dance, which is passed down through families as part of a traditional culture that emphasizes community, that really drew me in. Like it almost gave me a tribe when I felt I didn't have one."

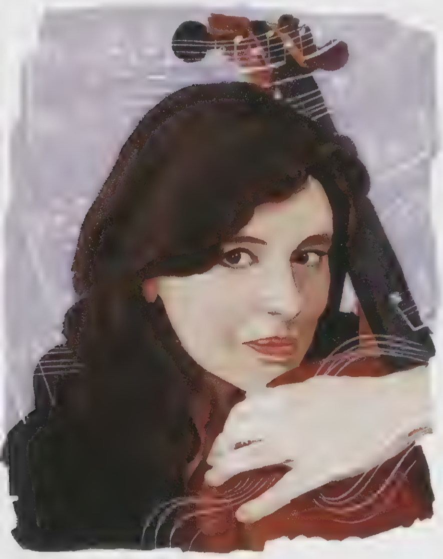
Estrada-Jamison loves performing (she also practices traditional flamenco dancing) but says that teaching gives her a different perspective in her approach to dance. "You have to give to others; you're not the primary focus," she says. "It's not about you; it's about your students."

Louise Dubin '92

What do a 19th-century French cellist and the Radio City Rockettes have in common? **Louise Dubin '92.**

While at the College, Dubin attended the Juilliard exchange program and earned a B.A. in comparative literature. Many nights she could be found at WKCR, hanging out or preparing for her show *Strings Attached.* "I liked to broadcast recordings that were hard to find, including some scratchy 78s from the WKCR locker."

She took that love of lesser-known classical music onward, writing her doctoral thesis (from Indiana University Bloomington) on cellist and composer Auguste Franchomme. Inspired by unpublished manuscripts and out-of-print works that she discovered in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris, Dubin released her debut album, *The Franchomme Project,* in 2015. Many of her album tracks are world-premiere recordings.



Dubin has performed around the world, including recitals in Salle Gaveau and other venues in France, and as principal cellist of the Auckland Philharmonia, Swedish Chamber Orchestra and the Charleston [S.C.] Symphony. She now performs in many classical ensembles and Broadway shows closer to home, including, for the past few years, as the cello 1 chair at Radio City's *Christmas Spectacular.* "It takes a lot of endurance, but it's fun and the level of playing is inspiring," she says of her *Christmas Spectacular* role. She performs up to four 90-minute shows daily during the two months the show is staged.

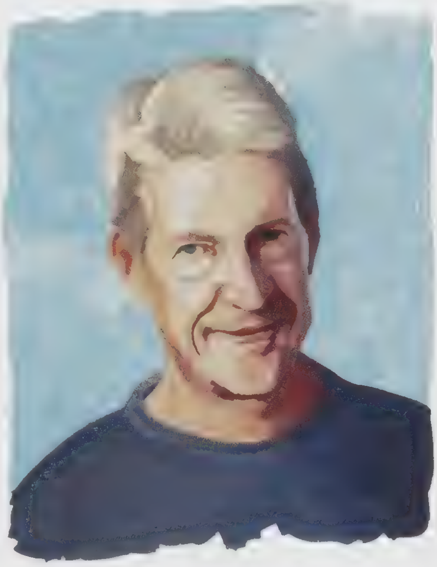
Dubin's next album will be released this year. It features French compositions ranging from the 1800s to the current day, including another unrecorded work by Franchomme. "I love discovering an interesting work that's unplayed, or underplayed, because I feel like there's not this weight of history dictating the appropriate way to perform it," she says. "It keeps it fresh!"

Larry Slaughter '85

"Cheers!" to winemaker **Larry Slaughter '85,** an organic wine producer in the south of France. Slaughter says he and his wife, Constance, had dreamed for decades of running a vineyard, but it wasn't until they found the Château de Mille estate that they knew they had found their home.

The Château de Mille vineyard is the oldest wine estate in the Luberon region of France — records of wine making on the site go back to 1238, when it was a summer residence of the popes. In 2018, the estate took on a new life when the Slaughters purchased it with the express purpose of restoring it to its former glory, as parts of the estate were run down: "That combination of history and the great quality of the land was enormously attractive for us," notes Slaughter.

The couple quickly began transitioning the winery to organic practices and launching restoration projects on the site, including saving a 17th-century bell tower and restoring a baroque altar. During Covid-19, Slaughter enrolled in a two-year winemaking course through UC Davis, earning a certification in viticulture and enology (everything "from the vine to the wine," he says).



Château de Mille grows 10 varietals of grapes and produces red, white and rosé wines. The wine is mostly sold in France — in the United States, Château de Mille wines are only available in a few restaurants and stores in New York. However, Slaughter is looking to expand in the coming years.

Slaughter offers visitors tours of the site and its archives, as well as wine tastings. "We're guardians of this property; we're going to be here for a nanosecond in the history of this place and so we're delighted to be able to share it with people," he says.

*class*notes

A dusting of frost gets campus thinking about winter.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT Online and in archives.

1945–55

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. **Lawrence S. Harte '53** writes: "In 1949 I attended my first Columbia football game. That year was the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1899. The elders who had returned for the event, many of them born around 1878, looked ancient. I didn't realize that someday I, too, would look ancient.

"My years at Columbia were memorable ones. I was awed by the Core Curriculum, small classes and world-class teachers like Dawson, Kusch, Carey, Hyatt and many more. Nobel Prize winner Kusch once warned me: 'To make a mark in this world, you must speak English distinctly and properly.' Because of him, I worked on verbal presentation throughout my career, participating in countless speaking engagements and earning positions in universities and organizations, including New Jersey's Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center and Public Health Council during 9-11.

"Sports were important to me, and at Columbia I met **Al Ward '53**, DM'62, the great football end, who tried introducing me to good manners. Then there was the undefeated 1950–51 basketball team with **Stan Maratos '53,** which placed third in the national final ranking. What a thrill!

"Friends included **Mike Sovern '53**, LAW'55, who became president of Columbia, and **Mel Schwartz '53**, GSAS'58, who won a Nobel Prize in physics. I still see my friends **Ed Robbins '53**, LAW'55 and **Marty Corwin '54** socially. Sadly, many of our classmates are gone.

"After years of orthodontic training, I founded the Facial and Cosmetic Enhancement Center, the New Jersey Center for Cranial Facial Pain, and the Mid-Atlantic Sports Dentistry, and spent two decades in Washington, D.C. representing the field of orthodontics.

"After a tour as an Air Force captain, I got the travel bug and, during the next six decades, visited more than 110 countries. I cavorted with penguins in the Galapagos and near Antarctica, and traversed Canada, Nepal, the Komodo Islands, the Philippines, Borneo, South Africa and Tasmania.

"Since retirement, I have authored five books, including an autobiography and several volumes of cartoons, proverbs and quotations for people ages 10–100. My latest, *Then and Now Historical Perspectives & Cartoons*, is a (hysterical) historical collection of caricatures of and quotations by famous people.

"After 90 years, I have learned that life is not where you start or where you finish; life is a journey. I am proud to be part of an extensive Columbia family, including my father, my uncle, my daughter ('88, BUS'92), my step-grandson ('15) and me. At present, Kathy and I spend time in St. Petersburg, Fla., and Verona, N.J.

"Recently, I attended another Columbia football game. Anybody in the freshman class must have thought I had gone to school with Alexander Hamilton CC 1778! I had a flashback to Christmastime 1949, a snowy night at John Jay Hall. President Dwight D. Eisenhower stopped in to raise a glass of eggnog to a small group of us. His unforgettable, inspirational words were: 'Gentlemen, a toast to you, to your families, to Columbia, and our country.'"

Gordon Silverman '55, SEAS'57 writes regarding the infamous 1947 football game highlighted in the Fall 2023 issue ("Roar, Lion Roar"; columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2023/article/100-recalling-one-history-books): "My brother **Burton Silverman '49** took me (age 13) to that famous game. I never forgot it!"

Please share your news and updates with us and with your classmates.

1956

Robert Siroty
rrs76@columbia.edu

Jerry Kaufman is spending most of the year in Palm Beach, walking a couple of miles daily, swimming a bunch of laps and playing tennis seven days a week.

Jay Martin is busy writing his sixth book in the last four years, this one on his 44 years in psychoanalytic practice.

Ed Botwinick has moved permanently to just outside Charlottesville, Va.

Jordan Bonfante will spend a month in Spain.

Dick Capen writes from California that he is reading a great biography on John Jay, and cannot understand why we were never required to take a history course with all the references to Hamilton and Livingston.

Gil Kalish is still playing concerts and teaching full time at Stony Brook. He participated in summer music festivals.

Art Salzfass is in a retirement village a half-hour from San Francisco, and is still "valiantly plucking away on the ukulele trying to find those correct elusive notes."

Paul Bergins, Ed Gordon, Jerry Fine, Jack Katz, Bob Siroty and **Dan Link** met for lunch in August, along with Joy Bergins, Martha Gordon, Barbara Fine and Elinor Baller at Dan's country club in Larchmont, N.Y. Conversation flowed about us, current events, Columbia and college in general. See the nearby photo.

Ed plans to move in May to Somers, N.Y., close to concerts at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, and to Purchase, where the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performs.

Allan Hoben is alive and well in Berkeley, Calif., enjoying kayaking, birding and socializing. He would like to be in touch with classmates. And is pleased that the undergraduates at Columbia who are the recipients of the Allan Hoben Scholarship Fund are doing well.

Phil Liebson is continuing piano lessons, and also writing essays for the Chicago Literary Club. His 26th, for March, will be "Chicago During Prohibition: Not Only Al Capone and Al Cohol."

Ed Botwinick reports the passing of **Jim Mooney,** noting that he is now the "last Class of '56 survivor of the '53 football team."

Sad to report the deaths of **Stan Soren,** retired orthopedic surgeon on Staten Island who was a chief surgeon with the FDNY and an honorary surgeon with the NYPD; and **Solomon Robinson.**

[Editor's note: Read more about Soren in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Again, if you haven't gotten my emails, it is because we don't have your email address. Please forward it to *CCT* (online: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info, or by email: cct@columbia.edu) so that we can get you on the list.

CC'56 classmates and their guests got together on August 17 for lunch at Bonnie Briar, Dan Link's country club, in Larchmont, N.Y. Standing, left to right: Barbara Fine, Jerry Fine, Jack Katz, Link, Elinor Baller and Bob Siroty. Seated, left to right: Paul Bergins, Joy Bergins, Martha Gordon and Ed Gordon.

1957

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for news and updates.

Dr. **John G. Scandalios** writes, "On thinking back of my days at Columbia College, two things stand out for me. I was a commuter from Astoria and every morning when I got off the train, I would get a warm bag of chestnuts from the old gentleman outside the entrance to campus. I would sit on the steps of Low Library until my first class and eat the chestnuts or a warm soft pretzel.

"I also recall daily the impact that the Core Curriculum had on my life. As a scientist and academic there was not a day that something I derived from the Core did not play a part in my thinking. Perhaps the best part of a liberal Columbia education is not only learning facts, but also learning to think. Recently

Submit a Class Note or Photo

CCT welcomes news, updates and photos from Columbia College alumni.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year)
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

SUBMIT A PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni for Class Notes, and one for Just Married!, as long as the alum is a member of the couple.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

my young amazing granddaughter Daphne visited Columbia and hopes to get the same opportunities I had in a Columbia education."

Al Raab SEAS'58, SEAS'59 reports, "In 2017, I retired from my position as a senior program officer at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., after 26 years of interesting and challenging assignments.

"After College graduation, I continued my studies at Columbia and earned a B.S. and an M.S. in civil engineering. I then left NYC for Cornell, where I earned a Ph.D. in civil engineering for studies in structures, mechanics and mathematics. From 1963 to 1991, when I joined the National Academy, I had various jobs in the Boston area analyzing the stresses and deformations of solids and structures in various military and space applications.

"My wife, Fran, and I are 'aging in place' in Bethesda, Md., with volunteering, travel and visits with our three daughters, their husbands and our seven grandchildren to keep us young."

Art Bernstein SEAS'62 shares, "I retired from a faculty position in the Computer Science Department at Stony Brook University in 2005 and was faced with the problem of what to do with my time. The university had just introduced a requirement to remedy a problem faced by most arriving students: Their programs were filled with introductory courses that had large enrollments. The requirement mandated that freshmen had to enroll in a one-credit seminar during their first year to give them the experience of being in a class with a maximum of 15 students. The hope was that they would feel more comfortable expressing themselves and would establish a closer relationship with a faculty member.

"There was a problem though. Given the number of seminars that would be necessary to accommodate a large freshman class, there weren't enough faculty members to handle the load. The solution was to invite emeritus faculty to volunteer and, to encourage them to do so, each instructor was allowed to choose the topic of his or her section. I volunteered, and having spent my entire career in technology, I decided it was time for a change. Rather arbitrarily, I chose *King Lear* as the topic. The course was not a success, perhaps because of my inexperience but also because it was difficult to engage freshmen in the fate of a foolish old man facing death and the wrath of two seriously flawed daughters. But I wasn't discouraged. Having invested a significant amount of time studying the play, I decided to shift the course to the adult-ed component of the university, where I would find a more sympathetic audience. I was much more successful. The students were interested. I even had one confide in me that her daughter reminded her of Goneril. The course has become popular, I expanded it to include most of Shakespeare's plays and, more recently, to modern American and European theater. It occupies a significant portion of my time. I enjoy teaching it immensely. I now think of myself as a humanist rather than an engineer.

"I credit Columbia's Core Curriculum with the direction my life has taken. I was 16 when I started college, and seriously overwhelmed. I was one of those students who sat in the last row in the Humanities A class with my head down. I tried to record every word the instructor said and to regurgitate them on the exams. And, of course, I promptly forgot everything after the final exam. But the course left its mark. I felt that I had touched the roots of Western civilization. I was proud of that and empowered by it. Most importantly, I was left with a respect for good literature and a desire to understand the underlying thoughts that support it. The course that I now teach is the culmination of that."

Carlos Muñoz GSAS'61 writes, "I had the opportunity for a most pleasant and informative visit to Israel in 2022, which I mention now because I am saddened by the recent events that have brought so much chaos and terror to the prosperous, vibrant nation I experienced for the third time during the last 40-plus years. I am additionally saddened by the failure of so many at Columbia to condemn the atrocities of the Hamas terrorists, some even going so far as to praise them. As of this writing, it appears that only Dean Josef Sorett has seen fit to condemn the Hamas atrocities and call them out as terrorists, while much of the faculty appears to consider the despicable actions of Hamas as justifiable resistance to 'oppression.' I express my own condemnation of Hamas as well as my sympathies to our Jewish students and my Jewish classmates, some of whom are (or were) among my closest friends at Columbia and during the last 66 years."

Please share your news and updates with us and with your classmates.

1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

The first item in our mailbag comes from **Charles Golden.** Chuck attended reunion last June and met up with **Ira Carlin** LAW'64, his "old NROTC buddy, friend and colleague." Chuck writes, "It was good to see him in the flesh here in the East ... my wife, Sheila, now deceased, and I had visited Ira and his wife, Jane, years ago when we were in California."

We also received a long communication from **Marshall Front** BUS'61, who brings us up to date on his activities: "After founding our firm 30 years ago, I decided to solve some estate planning issues for my family and assure the continuity of our business by entering into a partnership with Mesirow Financial Holdings, another, larger Chicago-based financial services firm. The new arrangement will take some of the increasingly complex administrative and compliance responsibilities off of our shoulders and allow us to spend more of our time investing and working with clients on their financial planning. I have no plans to retire. I continue to be a trustee of, or advise, several cultural/educational institutions including the Field Museum of Natural History, WTTW and WFMT, The Renaissance Society (located at the University of Chicago) and Columbia College Chicago (not related to Columbia University).

"Between us, my wife, Laura, and I have 10 grandchildren, some residing in the Midwest, and others in Washington and California. Most recently, my son Chris '91, GSAS'93 became head of school at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis."

It was nice to hear good news from Chuck and Marshall, but unfortunately no column for *CCT* is complete these days without including sad news as well. The children of **Rick Brous** BUS'60 informed us that their father died on August 26, 2023. Rick grew up in New York City and met his wife-to-be on a blind date ("They spent the next 54 years building our family, a business and a life of meaning together.") They were very active in Jewish community life before and after moving to Los Angeles 15 years ago to be closer to their children and grandchildren. As Dev, Sharon '95, GSAS'01 and Michael '98 wrote, "May his memory forever be a blessing." Amen.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1959

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

From **Peter Birnbaum** GSAS'62: "As you can see, I am still alive and kicking (though not very hard). I am thinking of donating to Columbia my entire library of Oriental studies (a 60-year collection of several thousand books) with a focus on all subjects relating to Indian religion and culture. I hope that the University might welcome this, and not view it as embarrassment to be stashed away in some basement.

"I would not be averse to the library selling off duplicates, nor do I expect any kind of remuneration. For any student of Sanskrit and the like, this could be a valuable resource (as it has been to me these many years)."

Steve Basson writes, "After my four glorious years as a history major, I became a professional bassoon player for 41 seasons! I remember with the greatest pleasure the Core Curriculum and the CC courses. The professor who made the most lasting impression on me was Justus Buchler GSAS'39, a philosophy professor in whose CC class I landed by (very fortunate) accident.

"My wife, Mary, and I have lived in Milwaukee for more than 50 years, and we raised our three sons here. Inasmuch as all three of them live 'out East' now, we come to the coast as often as schedules and travel arrangements make possible, and our five grandchildren, aged 2–11,

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary
VPS	Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

are a lovable magnet. You can tell from how young the kids are that both Mary and I, and our own sons, started kinda late in making a family, but at least everyone is educated, employed and making a contribution to American life.

"Mary is a docent at the Milwaukee Art Museum where, for years, she helped to write and edit *Docent Magazine*, and I share my still-fanatic love for music by teaching a little at a couple of the retirement homes here in Milwaukee. It is still astonishing to me how much of the spectacular achievements of Mozart, Beethoven and (especially) Schubert fall outside of normal concert life, which is in any case being crimped in by many circumstances. I do not pretend to [have] scholarly credentials, but genuine enthusiasm, a host of recordings and the secondary literature all help to make enjoyable sessions for my listeners, and me.

"I do treasure my Columbia memories and I hope all classmates have been as fortunate as I, and that our health holds up a while longer."

Jim Goldstein informs us: "I still live in my house on West 87th Street; it's been about 59 years. I'm officially retired as a lawyer, but still investing in interesting situations. I went to my oldest grandson's wedding last August in Austin (very hot) and planned to go to my granddaughter's wedding this past November in California. I have a close friend, Joyce Zern, with whom I walk around the reservoir in Central Park most days. Every night I spend a few hours reading before going to bed.

"I'm happy and reasonably content, although very unhappy with the political situation here and abroad. Meanwhile, I enjoy my walks and my still-living friends. They are fewer every month."

Aaron Priest lets us know, "I created and have run The Aaron M. Priest Literary Agency. It is considered one of the premier boutique literary agencies."

Richard Engelman informs us, "This getting on in years is a pain in the-you-know-where. I am employed by Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass., in charge of cardiac surgical research. They would like me to have retired, but somehow, I convinced them to let me stay on. The institution, however, made a point of not having to pay me much so I am working with a limit of two hours a day at $15 an hour. Still, it gives me an office and something to keep my mind functional.

"My wife and I have three children, and our son has become a cardiac surgeon working in my hospital. We have two daughters, one an attorney in NYC and one a fantastic potter selling her wares on eBay. We have seven grandchildren, with three who have no significant others but are older than when we had children. It is clearly a different world than when we were their age.

"I play a lot of golf and try to keep active. I recently had a herniated disk removed and am suffering the consequences. My wife and I spend the winter in Florida. I hope my back will be comfortable, and I can swing a golf club again.

"It would be great to have another reunion, and I am looking forward to [the one this spring]."

From **Norman Bernstein** LAW'64 we learn, "After serving as an ensign and lieutenant junior grade on a destroyer for two years, I returned to Columbia and graduated from the Law School. I was on the Board of Editors of the *Law Review.* I served as a law clerk to a federal judge for two years and practiced law at several firms until 1979. From 1979 to 1988 I was associate counsel special litigation at Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn. I was responsible for all of Ford's environmental litigation (other than automotive emissions). I thereafter became a partner in several major law firms. In 2006 I established my own firm with one or more associates and/or of counsel. We have filed briefs in the Supreme Court of the United States on environmental issues including on behalf of Kelsey-Hayes and NCR Corp., defeated arguments of the Department of Justice in the landmark Superfund case in the Seventh Circuit, *Bankert v. Bernstein* (I argued the case) and in 2023 successfully concluded a settlement of litigation that we brought on behalf of the White Plains Housing Authority. I am a trustee at two Superfund sites in Indiana (one is on the EPA's National Priorities List) and also currently represent Electric Boat Co. on a case involving a state hazardous waste site in Long Island City, Queens.

"My interest as a fine art photographer has continued. (I took photographs for *Spectator* including a front-page photograph inside SRO housing in the Columbia area.) In 2023, three of my photographs were selected by the Katonah Museum of Art Artists' Association for display in its annual show in Westchester.

"My second wife, Michele Braun, and I live Pound Ridge, N.Y., and have been married for more than 25 years. (She is a retired officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.) Our daughter, Sarah Judith, graduated from Mount Holyoke and is a published writer living in Boston. A daughter from my first marriage, Marion, lives in St. Johns, Mich. She is the only female lawyer in St. Johns and with her husband runs a 40-acre farm. She and my granddaughter visited last summer. All five of us went to a Shakespeare performance."

I have a contribution from **Josh Fierer** that will appear in the next issue.

Jim Goldstein informs us that **David Peck** died on July 8, 2023. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1960

Robert Machleder
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With the passage of time and the advance of our years, many of our recent Class Notes have been memorials. This is no exception, but it's refreshing to observe that almost every note in this column is celebratory.

Larry Mendelson BUS'61 has a great deal to celebrate. On September 6, Larry received the prestigious 44th annual Howard Hughes Memorial Award from the Aero Club of Southern California. The Howard Hughes Memorial Award honors exceptional leaders who have advanced the fields of aviation or aerospace technology. The award was presented to Larry in his role as chair and CEO of HEICO Corp. for his transformation of HEICO, as explained in the following announcement:

"Mr. Mendelson joins forty-three aviation and aerospace pioneers, including last year's honoree Harrison Ford as well as General Chuck Yeager, Bob Hoover, Neil Armstrong, General Jimmy Doolittle, Elon Musk, Jim Lovell, Marillyn Hewson, Captain 'Sully' Sullenberger and many others. Mr. Mendelson took over HEICO's leadership in 1990 and, together with his sons, HEICO Co-Presidents Eric Mendelson ['87, BUS'89] and Victor Mendelson ['89] worked with HEICO's remarkable Team

Members to build the Company from a small South Florida provider of a few aircraft components into a rapidly-growing and highly diversified aerospace, defense and electronics company with 9,000 Team Members producing HEICO's mission-critical products and services in 23 US states and 14 countries. HEICO's customers include a majority of the world's airlines and overhaul shops, as well as numerous defense and space contractors and military agencies worldwide, in addition to medical, telecommunications and electronics equipment manufacturers.

"Howard Hughes' first cousin, William R. Lummis, established the award in 1978, and the Aero Club of Southern California presents the award annually.

"The Aero Club of Southern California (ACSC) is a 501(c)(3) charitable aviation industry nonprofit led by volunteer officers and Board members. Founded to increase the public's awareness of aviation, ACSC membership is open to everyone with an interest in aviation and space — from research and technology to piloting, education, manufacturing, commercial and military aviation, and much more.

"In selecting Mr. Mendelson for the award, the Aero Club commented, 'HEICO designs, manufactures, and distributes parts for almost every major commercial, business jet, defense and space program. HEICO Corporation provides less expensive aftermarket aviation parts to replace original equipment manufacturer hardware, thereby contributing to the airlines' competitiveness. Mr. Mendelson and HEICO Corporation have received ongoing industry recognition as aviation and defense industry leaders. Howard Hughes Memorial Award honoree Larry Mendelson 'Keeps 'Em Flying'."

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

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- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

Upon receipt of the award, Larry expressed his gratitude: "I am profoundly honored to receive such a prestigious award from such a prestigious organization. The Aero Club of Southern California is recognized as one of the leading aviation and aerospace organizations in the world and the idea that they would bestow this award upon me leaves me deeply humbled and grateful. I thank the Aero Club of Southern California, its officers, the selection committee and the club's members for this special commendation."

Frank Loesser wrote it: "I'd like to get you on a slow boat to China." Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Peggy Lee and Frank Sinatra made it famous: "All to myself alone." And **Peter Schweitzer** is doing it. "I am retired," Peter writes, "and live on a residents' ship, *The World,* which sails for two years around the globe. I am married to a wonderful woman, Anne McBride. But when that ship returns, we are Florida residents and live in Sloan Curve in Palm Beach. My family consists of four adult children and six grandchildren. I have an enjoyable life. Good health is the key ingredient."

Bill Tanenbaum writes, "My granddaughter Reina Dora Baron '26 is now at Columbia. Her mother is my daughter Elizabeth '96. Our family is quite proud that three generations will have attended Columbia."

Bill, an avid advocate of travel, continues to pursue his passion: "My wife, Ronna, and I are back on the road again. In August, we enjoyed a vacation to Vail, with its cool temperatures, low humidity, good hiking and sightseeing in the area. En route home, we attended a family wedding in Kansas City, Mo."

George Erdstein GSAPP'62 writes, "Since most of us are in our 85th year, I thought it time to update and reflect. I hate the word 'retirement.' If one weren't tired to start with, how could one re-tire? I prefer to call it 'shifting gears.' I did so recently when I gave up my beloved 50-year practice of architecture in Michigan to engage in other pursuits, including writing and ceramics. In addition to having had a novel, *Mountain Rat,* published, I wrote a screenplay, *Of Bread and Honey,* which I hope will go somewhere. Both are Holocaust related, something that is very much a part of my background. I've been involved for many years with a major Holocaust museum, where I speak regularly as a survivor. Regarding ceramics, I participate in an Annual Potters Market here in Michigan.

"Becoming a grandfather is no big deal, but to see one's son become one is mind-blowing. By the way, that makes me a great-grandfather, a nice byproduct. But I still play tennis both here and in Longboat Key, Fla., where my wife, Janice, and I spend winters. Even got bitten by the pickleball bug and hope to continue, as long as the knees hold out."

Architect **Sam Tolkin** GSAPP'62 offers, "A few updates in my life that my old friends and fraternity brothers [Tau Epsilon Phi] might find of interest.

"To begin, seven months ago I was appointed to the Planning Commission of the City of Santa Monica. It is a three-year appointment, and I will be 87 when I complete my term.

"My grandson Riley Richmond and his wife, Dalia, gave me my first great-grandson last year. Luca Richmond turned 2 in December, and if he is as bright as his parents are I suspect he will have his choice of Columbia, Yale or Harvard when he gets of age. Another grandson, Elias Braem Tolkin, is finishing his first year in the architecture program at the ETH in Zurich, Switzerland. He is the third generation of architects in the family. His father is Peter Tolkin GSAPP'91 and his mother was an exchange student at GSAPP.

"My grandson Jackson Richmond, like his brother Riley, graduated from Yale. Sister Emma Richmond finished her undergraduate work at Chapman University.

"My granddaughters Porter Tolkin and Storey Tolkin will graduate and have graduated from USC here in Southern California. Brother Jake Tolkin is finishing his economics degree at Syracuse."

Alas, a sad note from **Lee Rosner:** "I'm writing with a very heavy heart upon learning of the death of my great friend since freshman year, Dr. **Robert Lewis.** He died on April 24, 2023, at home with his family. I learned this from his daughter Missy. Bob was a wonderful friend, a very warm person and an eminent psychiatrist."

1961

Michael Hausig
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Stuart Sloame LAW'64 was invited to become a member of The Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs. The institute brings its members, people with experience in foreign affairs now in private life, to come together and share their ideas with authoritative speakers, including current government officials, as well as many foreign policy experts in academia and the foreign policy and intelligence communities. For more than 15 years, Stuart was vice-chair of the board of a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, the American Jewish International Relations Institute, which has developed and implemented an imaginative strategy designed to change votes in the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council on resolutions considered to be a misuse of the world body to delegitimize Israel.

Chuck Gutowski BUS'63 is working on the translation of a new book, *LuAnne on the Road with Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady,* from French into English. It was published initially in Paris in 2022 and is the version of LuAnne Henderson, Cassady's young wife, who accompanied him and Kerouac on their 1949 road trip, the basis for Kerouac's famous book *On the Road.* It's quite different from Kerouac's version. The book was written in French by an authority on the Beat poets, one of whom, surprisingly, was Chuck's cousin Janine Vega.

Peter Gund is battling pulmonary thrombosis. His family organized a celebration of his life, held on August 13. The stories shared, and the expressions of friendship and love, were overwhelming. The occasion was recorded, and is online at bit.ly/49HQBFe. A compilation of photos is available online at bit.ly/46gZdzR. At the time of this submission, Peter was stable.

Gene Milone and his wife, Helen, continue to maintain Covid-19 protocols given the ongoing pandemic for their age cohort, and, so far, have been lucky enough to have had three fairly healthy years by doing so.

Last year Gene helped curate and complete a lengthy review paper on the nature of over-contact eclipsing binaries; the lead author passed away in November 2022. It was the fourth in a series on groups of these variable stars, and concluded an eight-year study. The paper is titled *A Critical Review of Period Analyses and Implications for Mass Exchange in W UMa Eclipsing Binaries: Paper 4,* by R.H. Nelson, D. Terrell and Gene. It has been accepted for publication in *New Astronomy Reviews,* an Elsevier journal. Gene is organizing his manuscripts and correspondence for the University of Calgary Archives and Special Collections, but he continues to record meteor showers, write and attend Zoom/hybrid conferences, including, most recently, the 23rd Gamow International Astronomical Conference held in Odessa, Ukraine.

Bob Salman LAW'64, on the October 18 class Zoom call, presented his annual predictions for the 2023 and 2024 elections and commentary on the political world. Bob also gave a talk on October 25 at Brookdale Community College, "Upcoming Election Analysis," which included an analysis of recent SCOTUS decisions and their impact on the elections. As a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, Bob is involved in the state's election of the entire legislature and the Sen. Robert Menendez issue.

Bob and his wife, Reva, had a late celebration of their 60th anniversary with their entire family at their daughter Elyse's home in Florida. Bob also offered kudos to **Bob Pollack** for all his great contributions to Columbia.

Mel Welke writes that a class highlight for him has been the Zoom calls begun during the Covid era. Instead of a dozen classmates meeting for lunch monthly in New York, we now have presentations available all over the world to our class. Mel says has enjoyed discussions on health, the auto industry, airline economics, the newspaper industry, opera, religion, politics, the political forces around the world and more.

Mel commented that **Mickey Greenblatt** SEAS'62 is doing a superb job of planning and moderating these monthly Zooms, and whatever our diverse backgrounds and differences of opinions, our class is tied more closely together. He is so proud and thankful to be in such a bright and achieved Columbia class.

Mike Clark SEAS'62 wrote that he and his wife, Johanna, are still healthy, on the green side of the grass and enjoying every day in the Great American West.

1962

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In October, **Bob Koehler** was inducted posthumously into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. As the ace of the Lions' pitching staff 1960–62, Bob held Columbia's records for career strikeouts (253) and ERA (2.02) and even now ranks second and third. The New York Yankees signed Bob in 1962, and he played in the minors for two years before earning an M.Ed. from Teachers College. He then taught for 31 years at H. Frank Carey H.S. on Long Island. During summers, he played ball in Canada and threw batting practice for the Mets and Yankees. From 1998 to 2005 he returned to Columbia as a volunteer pitching coach. Sadly, Bob passed away in 2017 after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Also in October, Duke honored CC'62's only Nobel Prize winner, **Bob Lefkowitz** VPS'66, for 50 years of teaching and research by hosting a two-day symposium, "Celebrating Scientific Discoveries that Advance Human Health" (medschool.duke.edu/research/celebrating-scientific-discoveries). It featured seven Nobel laureates.

Bernie Patten VPS'66 wrote a charming recollection of **Walter Hilse** GSAS'72, our valedictorian, who passed away in December 2022. (A full obituary is at college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/summer-2023/article/obituaries.) Walter was Bernie's best college friend. Bernie recalls: "I tried to teach Walter to drive my 1956 Studebaker Champion. Walter never mastered shifts, often confusing gas, brake and clutch pedals. After several fruitless sessions, we decided he would have to spend his life taking public transportation, which he did.

"In our senior year, Columbia wrote him a terse letter stating that if he didn't pass the swimming test, he'd not graduate! So we went into training. He was worse at swimming than driving; I witnessed his test! He 'swam' the final 15 feet under water and came up gasping. The merciful instructor passed him, and that was that.

"Walter lived in a small West Side apartment in condemned housing with his cat, Graypaws. In 1986 he told me his maximum yearly income was $7,100, and he couldn't imagine anyone making more. He loved playing the organ and liked teaching piano. Despite living in what most would consider abject poverty, Walter was completely happy with his life and at ease in his own skin. I loved him and miss him."

After reading about **Russ Warren** in the Fall 2023 issue, **Burt Lehman** LAW'65 adds the following: "Russ was revered by the docs at the Hospital for Special Surgery, where he was surgeon-in-chief for many years. Every HHS doctor I used stressed Russ' amazing talents as both teacher and leader. He was my go-to guy for orthopedic care, which I often needed."

At 82, **Dave Nachamie** continues a successful running career. "Usually," he says, "I race 5K with occasional 8K or 10K and am certainly a better competitor now than when I ran cross country and track at Columbia."

In response to my prompt, asking whether American democracy is healthy or threatened, **Ira Bloomgarden** replied: "We studied Contemporary Civilization and Humanities under the assumption that an introduction to the issues and creative thinking of the past would provide valuable perspectives into developments in our own time. That assumption has guided my life, including my career in the English department of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. However, the decline in discourse, embracement of fashion and disdain for our heritage have precipitated a crisis in political discourse and governing. Pragmatic choices and information-based solutions may be fruitful, but are unlikely to help if we don't know where we are. Our undergraduate time was constricted by the absence of women, closeted alternative sexualities, and, most importantly, the scarcity of Black people. We are well rid of that dismal past and should be proud of whatever slight contributions we made to its demise. But, even in our approaching dotage, we shouldn't give up the struggle for liberal democracy, based on the best of our heritage."

David Brothers wrote: "I still hope the American electorate will see who Trump is, but I may be a fool. Meanwhile, I'm headed to a wedding in the Italian Alps, then on to Paris to meet my family and granddaughter, who is studying fungi at Edinburgh University. It should be great fun getting lost in Paris after learning at Columbia how to get lost among the coffeehouses of Greenwich Village."

Frank Strauss wrote: "American democracy is seriously threatened by the candidacy of Donald Trump, who has demonstrated a pattern of lying to the public and pursuing actions not in accord with the short- or long-term interests of our country, e.g., in foreign policy, healthcare and the promotion of absurd conspiracies."

Carl Jakobsson SEAS'63 thinks: "American democracy is threatened, because the Republican Party has come under the control of wealthy oligarchs who want to create a global oligarchy to benefit the wealthy. We need a transnational movement to promote intelligent discussion of the issues facing the world and to solve problems for everybody. That effort will be a marathon, not a sprint."

Andrew Jampoler SIPA'81 agrees: "Our democracy is grievously imperiled, threatened by its own extreme right, now led by the most capable fascist the world has seen in generations. This at a time when Congress seems incapable of good judgment or leadership! Scares me ... and I've thought myself to be fearless."

Chris Haakon believes: "Our country is in a sad state of decline and Congress is too polarized to enact major policies on immigration, education, spiraling debt and the whole budgetary process — to name just a few of my concerns."

Larry Loewinger wrote: "I never thought I'd experience the fragility of the American democratic prospect or see a President who, if not an outright fascist, harbors strong fascist leanings. Nor the Republican Party head toward collapse, or the House of Representatives so dysfunctional. We are clearly on a precipice. We can't retreat, but must not go over the edge. And all this while the world is on fire, literally and figuratively! I remember walking in New York City last summer with my eyes tearing and my lungs filled with smoke from raging forest fires in northern Quebec — far away, yet so close. But, as I write in mid-October, the menacing fire is now in Gaza and Israel. Who can put out this blaze? We can solve our problems, but it will take an enormous outlay of imagination, discipline and compassion, as well as a willingness to see others as fully human, as evil as they might first appear."

On several summer Sundays at the Rhinebeck Farmers Market, **Frank Stoppenbach** displayed lawn signs for Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and information on Covid-19 while he solicited signatures for a petition, urging debates among all Democratic presidential candidates. The local Democratic Party objected to his efforts and called the police, who acknowledged that Frank was within his rights. Local media and The Independent, an online newspaper out of Britain, covered the incident, but didn't say how many signatures Frank collected.

Some classmates think these notes are not the place for opinions about sociopolitical issues, but I don't agree. I think it is worthwhile to learn what classmates think about national and international questions as well as personal and professional matters. Nevertheless, I promise not to pose such prompts at least until after the elections of 2024.

1963

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My usual description of the Homecoming game and picnic is missing this year. I wimped out and decided not to drive three hours through the rain to sit drenched in the stands at Robert K. Kraft Field. A salute to my braver classmates who attended!

Paul Kimmel writes, "I retired from public school teaching in 2012, after 42 years at East Brunswick H.S. I had been teaching night classes at Rutgers, and after 2012, I administered the general chemistry course there. I have now also retired from Rutgers after 40 years teaching there. My wife and I still ride our tandem bicycle regularly. We recently did a metric 80 (80 km = 50 miles) to celebrate my 80th birthday."

Well done, Paul!

David Orme-Johnson writes, "We recently returned from a very full and satisfying Road Scholar two-week tour of Egypt, which included the Great Pyramids and tombs, a cruise up and down the Nile, a felucca ride on the Nile, five-star hotels, fabulous food and very informed lectures on the Nile, Egyptian history, the translation of the Rosetta Stone and the challenges of Egypt today. We had a wonderful Egyptologist guide who explained the beautifully carved and sometimes still painted hieroglyphics that cover virtually every wall and pillar. Highly recommended, at least for younger people.

"We were warned that there would be walking for three miles a day, in the heat (Aswan was 112 the day we were there) and climbing many stairs with no railings. This is all true! We went out early in the morning and usually came back by the time the temperature reached 100. A highlight for me was going inside The Great Pyramid of Giza, the tomb of the pharaoh Khufu and the last remaining wonder of the Ancient World. I wanted to know what it felt like to meditate next to the sarcophagus in the center of the pyramid. I had a deep experience of a transcendental presence there. Getting there and back took about half an hour each way in hot low-oxygen air because of so many people in a small space, going through a long narrow passage where we had to walk bent over, often duck walking, going up then downhill. Once coming back, I had to stop to rest, and I felt a fan blowing on me. I looked up to see a young Asian girl holding her electric fan on me. A little later, when I had stopped, two young girls were fanning me with their brochures. Very cool! Being an old guy in distress was a babe magnet! Who knew? I'm trying to figure out how to work it. I am finding out in many ways that people in different cultures are very kind to elders.

"My take home from the experience was it's time for me to withdraw from all other activities and do my final memoir about Maharishi, about how he brought the ancient Vedic knowledge of consciousness into the modern scientific world by encouraging scientific research on it and discussions with many great scientists and scholars. The world knows Maharishi as a pop figure, but few know him as one of the great minds of the ages, up there with all the guys we looked up to in Low Library. That's what I want to show."

Mel Gurtov writes that he "comments twice weekly on international affairs on KBOO-FM, Portland, Ore." Mel is a professor emeritus of political science at Portland State University and a senior editor of *Asian Perspective.* His blog, In the Human Interest, is at melgurtov.com. And his podcast is online at bit.ly/3MPzGqs.

Peter Landecker earned a Ph.D. in physics from Cornell. He enjoys retirement in Manhattan Beach. Peter has published about 80 papers, mostly in astrophysics. His picture appeared on the cover of *Sky & Telescope* magazine, and he was principal investigator of a solar X-ray satellite experiment. Peter is still an active scuba diver and has logged almost 2,500 dives in almost 40 countries. He has traveled extensively, visiting all seven continents and about 120 countries. His latest three-week diving trip was at Alor Island in Indonesia. Peter has been playing the violin in the Beach Cities Symphony for almost 50 years. He also attends many concerts and plays in the culture-rich Los Angeles area. He has three generations of California Desert Tortoises living in his backyard. They are a globally endangered species but not in their protected home.

Mark Koppel celebrated his 80th birthday last year with a party including his closest friends, **Alan Greengrass** and **Rory Butler.** He also celebrated the 50th anniversary of meeting his husband, Barry Brandes, whom he married in 2010, when it became legal. Mark lives in Somers (Westchester County), N.Y., (shout-out to any '63 Westchesterites) but visits the city he still loves as often as he can.

Unfortunately, I have the sad duty to report the death of three classmates. Rabbi **Sheldon Robert Isenberg** died on June 14, 2023. After earning a Ph.D. in religious studies at Harvard, he first taught at Duke and Princeton, and then spent the remainder of his career at the University of Florida in Gainesville. His interest led him to a study of mysticism and perennial philosophy.

David Pittinsky died on September 30, 2023. David was a highly successful litigator at Ballard Spahr in Philadelphia. As his Class Note in the Fall 2023 issue indicated, he enjoyed good food and good drink, and lovingly described his many trips to France.

Burton Brody GSAS'65, professor emeritus of physics at Bard, died on October 4, 2023. Burt was only the second member of Bard's physics department and was responsible for building up the department and the entire Science Division. He was a beloved classroom teacher.

Rest in Peace, all.

[Editor's note: Read more in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

We continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EST. Let me know if you'd like to join us, and I'll send you an invite. It's great to reconnect with old friends, and the discussions are terrific.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe, stay well!

1964

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Norman A. Olch
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Wonderful to hear from so many of you. I hope it will be face-to-face at our reunion. The editor has a strict word count for this column so I have had to do some editorial pruning and also save some submissions for the next issue.

Jack Singer sends "Greetings from Seattle. After an academic career in oncology/hematology at the University of Washington, where I was a professor of medicine and a member of the stem cell transplant team led by Nobelist E. Donall Thomas at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, I left to co-found a biopharmaceutical company in 1992 (CTIC) that had a typically checkered history but had four drugs approved, the latest for myelofibrosis in 2022. I retired from CTIC in 2020 and have been a consultant to several biotech companies since then. I am seriously working on my tennis game (doubles only), classical piano for the first time since I entered Columbia and planning a major recital for my 81st birthday. *Bach Partita No. 6 in E Minor, Chopin Ballade No. 3* and *Liszt Vallée d'Obermann.* My wife, Tia Higano, is a leader in the field of prostate cancer and was a recipient of a Mayo Clinic 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award. We have two daughters, both working in health care. I have a son from a former marriage who is an educator in Los Angeles; two granddaughters, one a UC Berkeley undergrad and the other just learning to crawl. Great age spread. I would love to meet other alumni coming through Seattle."

Alan Liebman writes, "I closed my second-career, investment management business in 2022 after 38 years and hit age '8-oh!' in September. Most of my time is spent as board president of a synagogue in Reno, Nev. The exact job title is president/janitor/occasional services leader/audiovisual tech. I also sit on the homeowners' association committee that manages the 'reserve fund' for our 1,000 homeowners. You can see how critical my physics degree from Columbia has been to my lifetime endeavors.

"The credos and behavior of the faculty and administration at Columbia; at my graduate alma mater, Yale; and at too many other higher ed institutions has alienated me from them all. I trust meritocratic systems and disdain quotas and least-common-denominator admissions policies. Speech codes on campuses are anathema to educational excellence. I've expressed my views to Columbia's leaders (never got a response), and just watched the continuance of corrosive policies and decisions. I am terribly saddened by the educational wreckage that the Columbia of our youth has become."

Martin Krieger GSAS'69 has two books coming out: *Working in Industrial Los Angeles* and *Primes and Particles. Working* is photographs of people doing their manufacturing jobs. *Primes* is about mathematics, physics and mathematical physics.

Michael Gunter SIPA'66, professor of political science at Tennessee Tech University, writes: "I gave the keynote at Soran University in Soran, Iraqi Kurdistan, in September on how Iraqi Kurdistan can best survive in the dangerous world of the Middle East. My book is on Turkey's newly elected president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. My two co-authored books on Karabakh were recently published. In 2023 I gave a talk on the Kurds at Universitee Laval in Quebec and on Erdogan's reelection at the EU Parliament. I also gave the keynote on Karabakh at a conference last February at alma mater."

Bill Mitchell BUS'66 writes from San Diego, "Applause — applause — applause for your energy and perseverance on some form of continuity for our class. My wife, Sandi, and I hosted the 24th annual Beta Brothers Reunion in San Diego in March 2023; most attendees were '64 classmates. Sadly, we have lost about 50 percent of our original participating Beta Brothers but we who remain are joyous in the memories and tales of our exploits/adventures/mishaps and accomplishments. Columbia stands out as our best life decision in all that has blossomed in our respective lives."

Joe O'Donnell writes that **Al Butts** BUS'68, LAW'68 has been inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. Al played football and baseball at Columbia.

Lee Witting writes, "I was born in Manhattan during WWII but was essentially unacquainted with New York Judaism until I graduated from a predominantly WASP private school in Fox Chapel, Pa. My pre-Columbia summer job was pushing racks in the Garment District, working for Jewish management and with many Hispanic women on the sewing machines in the back. An Orthodox kid my age who worked there, and was somewhat amused by my social ignorance, invited me to his parents' home for dinner, and even to see *West Side Story* on Broadway. That fall, my freshman roommate in New Hall was **Nick Rudd**, a good friend who introduced me to a different understanding of New York Judaism, including a party invite where I met Theodore Bikel and heard his music. By graduation I'd undergone total immersion, and when my wife, son and I managed to save enough, we travelled in a VW camper through Yugoslavia, Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon on our way to Jerusalem, from which we anticipated exploring Israel at length. Sadly, when we arrived in Jerusalem in 1966, we found that if we crossed the border, and got that Israeli stamp on our passports, we would never be able to drive back the way we had come. Our visit to the Dome of the Rock, to Abraham's altar, was as far as we could go.

"Since then, our hearts have been broken many times by reports of the wars throughout the territory we covered on that trip, and all the destruction that has happened in most of those countries since. And now it's the horrors inflicted by Hamas on Israelis, and the anticipated suffering of Palestinians, that's bound to result. Like most classmates, I was born during the Holocaust, and today, in many ways, it seems the suffering has been passed around, but never has it ended."

Steve Rodner: "My son who lives in South Korea was married in California and my grandson had his bar mitzvah in November in New Jersey."

Mazel tov.

Robert Bard published *Image Guided Aesthetic Treatment* and is director of Bard Cancer Diagnostics in Manhattan. He was recently nominated to the Board of Directors of the Arthritis Foundation.

Ezra Bialik: "After retiring from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in 2005 I worked part time as a hearing officer, but Covid-19 brought an end to that, as there was no remote option for working. I took on the task of getting a memoir written in Yiddish by a relative translated and published. The book describes his childhood growing up as an orphan in a very poor family in a shtetl in Belarus and then moving to Minsk and Vilna between 1888 and 1903. My mother was born in that shtetl and lived there until age 20. The book was also interesting because the author and two of his brothers achieved great success as adults. The book, *Dukor: A Memoir,* by Daniel Charney, was published in 2022. Getting this book published has been very helpful in strengthening ties with family members."

I am saddened to report the deaths of five classmates: **Jay Portnow, Lewis Gardner, Peter Machamer, Richard Stein** and **Irving Spitzberg.** A remembrance of Irv by **Steve Stander** is in this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct. [Editor's note: Read more about Stein and Spitzberg in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Requiescant in pace.

1965

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Barry Herman, who spoke at the economics presentation during our 50th reunion, sent an update: "Man, we are old! I AM 80!!! But I seem to be OK so far. My wife of 56 years, Martha (formerly Feldman) BC'67, carries on as well.

"I am occasionally on the Columbia campus. As I write, I am, however, co-organizing a workshop at SIPA to be held in November with Martín Guzmán (former Argentine minister of economy, now at SIPA) and Joe Stiglitz on some proposed New York State legislation to affect how insolvent developing country governments renegotiate their debt, at least the debt issued under New York law (covering about half of all external private sector lending to developing countries). It's a bit controversial, but stay tuned during the next few years to see if the proposals go anywhere.

"I am involved in some other adventures, sometimes at the UN, sometimes at the International Labour Organization and sometimes at the International Monetary Fund, principally on promoting what the rest of the world calls 'social protection' (child benefits, disability, social pensions, etc.). I see it as something valuable in itself, but it also speaks, if modestly, of the greatest failure of our generation, which is allowing such a wide divide to open in incomes and wealth between the 1 percent and the rest, here as well as around the world. I think it underlies the decay in democracy, the distrust in government and the unwillingness to stem climate change. We have not done well for our grandchildren."

Robert Kolodny was induced to share a wonderful memory: "In the Fall 2023 issue of *CCT,* the Class of 1964 posted some recollections of their experiences in the Cuban Missile Crisis. I had a particularly intriguing Columbia experience at that gut-wrenching time.

"Because I took Literature Humanities starting in the second semester of our freshman year, I wound up being assigned to Susan Sontag, an instructor in the religion department, for Literature Humanities II in the Fall 1962 semester. I realized very quickly that I was in the presence of an astonishingly brilliant thinker, and I met with her a few times after class to talk about papers I had written, on which she gave me detailed, helpful comments.

"On campus, students anxiously followed news reports of the Cuban Missile Crisis, just as the rest of the country was doing. On the evening of October 23, U.S. forces were placed on DEFCON 2 status, the only known time in the military's history that such an alert — basically, readiness to respond within minutes to the mounting threat of a military strike — had been issued.

"In the early afternoon on the 25th, I was sitting on a bench outside Hamilton Hall listening to my transistor radio for news updates on the situation when Sontag, wearing her usual outfit of a black turtleneck sweater and long black skirt, and her ever-present black leather boots, walked out of the building and asked if she could join me. We listened to news reports, mainly in silence, for 20 minutes or so, until she said, 'I'm afraid that missiles will be flying around the world tonight.' I looked at her in dismay; it was, of course, a fear that was on almost everyone's mind at the time. We were all too aware that nuclear Armageddon was close at hand.

"'Let's go get something to drink,' she said, and gestured for me to accompany her. We walked west across campus to Broadway and proceeded south past 114th Street to The West End. As a serious long-distance runner, I had never consumed an alcoholic beverage in my life and I wasn't about to begin just then, so I sat face to face with Sontag in a hard-benched wooden booth, with a dark wooden table, talking, occasionally turning on my radio for news updates, and vigorously bemoaning the world's apparent fate. With doomsday staring us in our faces, Sontag drained three glasses of red wine in an hour and a half and chain-smoked cigarettes while I nursed a bottle of Coca-Cola.

"In October 1962, Sontag was only 29, but she was a dazzling thinker with a sophistication that belied her years and a conversationalist that few could rival. On this afternoon, though, the gloom of the moment and the sense of desperation in the air kept our conversation focused mainly on matters at hand.

"At around 2:30 p.m., we parted company. I went to the *Columbia Review* office in Ferris Booth Hall for several hours, where I was then the business manager. Sontag told me she had an appointment downtown. As luck would have it, at about 5:30 p.m. I headed a few blocks down Broadway to pick something up at a neighborhood drug store. Sontag got out of a cab and smiled at me. 'Why not have dinner together?' she asked. 'It looks like fate wants to keep us together today.' As dining choices in the neighborhood were none too appealing, back we headed to The West End."

JIM ADER '66

Jim Ader '66 (left) and Rich Glaser '67 met on the street in Berkeley, Calif., on October 11.

Read more of Robert's reminiscence in this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

He concludes: "Of course, the world didn't end. I wound up taking every seminar that Sontag gave at Columbia and we became friends. After medical school, I would speak to her once in a while when she called me to congratulate me on a book or a piece of research that had been covered in the popular press, and we saw each other a few times while she was writing *Illness as Metaphor.*

"When Phillip Lopate '64, a noted film critic and essayist, and a member of the *Columbia Review,* gave a reading at the New Canaan, Conn., Library in the late 1980s, I went to hear him, and the instant I walked into the room, he said, 'Kolodny! You were Sontag's favorite student. How did you manage that?'

"When *In America* was published, Sontag gave a reading at the Union Square Barnes & Noble and introduced me to her daughter-in-law and grandchildren. It was the last time I saw her. I attended her memorial in 2005."

Elliot Dorff GSAS'71 is the rector and Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy at American Jewish University in Los Angeles. He wrote, "For my 80th birthday, a colleague at American Jewish University, Michael Berenbaum, and my son planned a surprise birthday party in which they presented me with a *Festschrift* in my honor. I still teach full time, and I have another book coming out in March. (I have written 14 and edited or co-edited another 14, as well as more than 200 articles on Jewish ethics, law and theology. All those trees!)"

Elliot arranged to have a copy of the *Festschrift* sent to me. With a photo of a broadly smiling Elliot on the cover, it is a weighty tome of more than 400 pages containing 24 essays by other scholars. Elliot added, "If a classmate wants a copy, they can request one from me at edorff@aju.edu."

Barry Kamins published the 32nd edition of *New York Search & Seizure,* a review of New York law on the Fourth Amendment. "Many years ago, I was speaking with a group of high school students about the Constitution, and one young man in the back of the room, who appeared to be the class clown, asked me. 'Which one is the Fourth Amendment?' 'Well,' I said, 'it is the one between the Third and the Fifth.'"

1966

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Pat Rapp GSAS'74 writes: "The ever-debonair **Tony Schiro** and his multi-talented wife, Deborah, hosted me for a few days in early August at their home on magical Whidbey Island in Puget Sound. From the ferry landing on the south end to the pigeon guillemots on the north, Whidbey is a verdant paradise, and the Schiros have their own Garden of Eden within. 'Twas a wild and wonderful visit, in the manner of broken-down old people posing beside barnacle-encrusted rocks and gorging on Tony's homemade pizza.

"Tony and I reveled in heroic fantasies about our roles in Columbia events long since swallowed by time's abyss. But one reality stays constant over the years: *CCT* has a remarkably creative Class Notes department. Despite having many friends and acquaintances in the class, neither Tony nor I have ever known any person mentioned in the Class of '66 column. Whatsa matta you, real people?! Too old, forgot how to write? Your pencil broken? Get on it! NOW!"

1967

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We heard from five classmates for this issue.

Bill Costanzo GSAS'78: "Sixty years after first setting foot on Morningside Drive is a good time to reflect on that experience and get back in touch with classmates. I still have all my books from Humanities and CC, which I continue to reread. In fact, I find that revisiting the Core Curriculum at this age gives me a measure of my personal growth as well as a sense of how the world has changed.

"After graduating in the turbulent era of Vietnam, I chose a career in education, teaching first in the South Bronx, then at Westchester Community College, where I taught English and film to undergraduates until 2022. Now, the focus of my teaching has shifted to adults, whose life experience contributes a great

MEREDITH THOMPSON

Then and now: On October 30 of this year, in Cambridge, Mass., left to right, Bill Hiney '67, Dean Mottard '66, Paul Lenart '67 and Gene Thompson '66 recreated a photo from back in the day.

deal to my own continuing education. Semi-retirement gives me more time to travel with my wife, Diana. Recently, our trips have taken us, or will soon take us, to Italy, France, Portugal, Greece, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, the Arctic Circle and southeast Asia. Meanwhile, I still enjoy writing. After eight books on topical subjects, I find myself turning with great pleasure to fiction and personal reflections.

"There is much to be thankful for, including two grown boys well into their own lives; a loving, close-knit family; and supportive friends and colleagues. Now and then, someone from the Columbia days pops back into my life. I always welcome a few more."

Bob Rosenberg: "I retired from my legal career at Latham & Watkins in 2012 and entered what I now call my Retirement 1.0 period. For the next 10 years I remained active in the legal and business world as a mediator, independent director, expert witness and consultant. While I still have a few pending matters, that seems to be winding down. From 2013 to 2023 I served in local government in the Long Island village of Bellport as trustee and deputy mayor. I was also president of the board of the New Group, a wonderful and popular New York City not-for-profit theater, from 2004 to 2021; I remain on the board and am president emeritus.

"I am entering Retirement 2.0. The start was interrupted by Covid-19 but is now in full swing. It centers around exotic travel for as much and as long as I can. Last summer I went with The Leakey Foundation to five islands in Indonesia, including Borneo. I am writing this on a bus from Al Ula, Saudi Arabia, to Medina, just recently opened to non-Muslims. I hope many more to follow.

"The family is happy and well and a source of enormous pleasure. My Phi Ep fraternity brothers get together several times a year, frequently including **Paul Berkman**, **Bob Levine**, **Harvey Robert Greenbaum** and Bruce Gordon. Not frequently enough I visit with my dear friend **Joel Klaperman,** who lives in Bucks County, Pa. Like anyone my age, I cannot help but look back at the journey. It is a cliche to say it, but nevertheless true: Columbia College was the single most important factor in shaping a remarkable projection of success and happiness. I am very grateful."

Clyde Schechter GSAS'69, VPS'76: "I enjoy living in southern California while working remotely as professor of family and social medicine for Albert Einstein College of Medicine. I no longer do clinical work but my research program in epidemiology occupies me full time. My two older children hold graduate degrees from Columbia — an M.A. and an M.B.A. — and my youngest completed the Sciences Po-Columbia Dual BA Program last May. It was great to be back on campus for graduation."

Gene Dorosh: "I was in the Class of 1965 and as I switched majors, I graduated in 1967. Raised a family of three daughters who are all doing well with their husbands and children. My wife and I lived in the city projects on 125th Street and Broadway for a year. After teaching kids there to meet high school equivalency exams, I also taught math and English for a year in a private elementary school in Greenwich Village, where we lived in NYU apartments and where I took courses at NYU in philosophy. My wife supported us by working at the Columbia University alumni magazine as an assistant to the editor. Shortly afterward I got a full-time job nearby in the Defense Supply Agency. After a year there I was accepted in the then-federal Management Intern Program. That's when we moved to Washington, D.C., where I worked in the Veterans Administration as a systems analyst. After a year there I joined the Postal Service as a federal law enforcement officer for 20 years doing criminal investigations and auditing postal computer security. Afterward I was a computer security consultant for about 10 years. It's been interesting, sometimes exciting.

"Hope some of my classmates from 1965–66 read this and contact me to say how they fared. Thanks for the opportunity to reminisce in writing."

Richard Tomar: "After 40 years as a trial lawyer in Washington, D.C., I retired and moved to the Jersey shore, where I was a middle school substitute teacher for eight years. During that time, I made numerous trips to Russia, where I was an English teacher to executives of multinational companies. In 2019 I moved to Moscow permanently, and left one week after the Ukraine invasion. I now live in Lisbon with my Russian wife and am fully retired. There is a city in Portugal named Tomar, which might be a 'sign', but I like Portugal and the life of an expat. I have three children and two grandchildren."

Be well all of you, and do write.

1968

Columbia College Today
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CCT is in need of a class correspondent to oversee this column. If you are interested, please email cct@columbia.edu, and use the subject line "CC'68 class correspondent."

In the meantime, we thank the following alumni, who answered our call for news and updates.

John Angell Grant notes, "I've been making five-minute films. I've submitted two of them to film festivals, and between the two they've won 16 awards. One film, *Two Stoners,* is about delusional pot smoking. The other, *1958,* is about spousal abuse. You can check them out at johnangellgrant.com."

Peter Benitez writes, "I and the rest of the Class of '68 are indebted to **Arthur Spector** for his having been the class correspondent for all these many years. Thank you, Arthur, for keeping us informed through the Class Notes of things that were happening with classmates and for helping us maintain our connection to the College."

Bohdan Oryshkevich shares, "I am launching SHAPE the Sciences to help Greta's generation master and shape the sciences to give humankind a more sustainable future. We will partner with the UN HQ in NYC, the Center for Climate Solutions on Governors Island and 20 leading North American universities. MIT, Cornell, Duke and Columbia will be leading their peers. Columbia will be at the head of this Manhattan Project of the 21st century. Our template is sustainable development and our strategy is 'total education.'

"Our first beachhead will provide talented upper-level high school students in Manaus, Amazonas (Brazil); Sierra Leone; Egypt; and Kharkiv, Ukraine, with state-of-the-art biology education.

"We are looking for partners and mentors.

"My best years are ahead of me.

"I thank **Arthur Spector** for his dedication to our class."

Jan Kalicki tells us, "I continue as public policy fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and as a board member and chair emeritus of Eurasia Foundation, both in Washington, D.C.

"Son Alexander 'Sasha' SEAS'16, GS'19 earned an M.D. (two distinctions) last year from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City and is now a resident emergency physician there.

"Son Peter '18 earned a J.D. (magna cum laude) last year from Harvard Law, then clerked for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit before joining the Wilmer Hale law firm in Boston this past fall.

"In exciting family news, Peter married Angela Jorge BC'18 last August, and Sasha is engaged to Ella Cohen, also a 2023 Mount Sinai graduate and a resident internal medicine physician there."

Charles Hendricks writes, "I submit the surprising news that I was elected mayor of the town of Laytonsville, Md., last June. Laytonsville is in northern Montgomery County, Maryland, in the outer suburbs of Washington, D.C. It boasted all of 572 residents in the 2020 census. I needed two elections to win the office. The first election, in May, ended in a 91–91 tie, but I managed to prevail in the resulting second election by a vote of 138–103. Quite some excitement. I'm enjoying the job."

Russell Needham sent this note: "Since graduation those many decades ago, I've always lived on Manhattan's Upper West Side and get back to campus for some free concerts at St. Paul's Chapel. I'm seeing a few psychotherapy clients at the Institute for Human Identity, which recently observed a 50th anniversary as the oldest LGBT clinic in the United States."

Larry Susskind tells us, "I teach full time in the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning and help to run the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law that I co-founded 40 years ago. We received a major grant from Google to support my MIT Cybersecurity Clinic and to expand the Consortium of Cybersecurity Clinics that I organized with a UC Berkeley colleague. This past fall I taught a renewable energy facility siting clinic. My students worked with communities caught up in battles over proposed solar power plants in rural areas.

"I enjoy our intergenerational household in Boston. I get to spend time with my 5-year-old twin grandchildren almost every day. The mediation firm that my wife and I founded is trying hard to help red and blue warriors reconcile."

Alan Weiss wraps up this issue for us: "I teach at John Abbott College in Montreal. I have video streaming international classes with Sapir College in Sderot, Israel, next to Gaza, and Kaye Academic College of Education in Beersheva, Israel, where half the students are Jewish and half are Bedouin Muslim. I'm also in the process of developing an exchange with Russia. I had an exchange with North Carolina Central University, an Historically Black University."

CCT has learned that **Robert C. Cook**, a businessman, artist and photographer who lived in Sedona, Ariz., died on February 10, 2023. Read more in "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Please share your news and updates with us and with your classmates.

1969

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Nathaniel Wander
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Mark Wattenberg LAW'73 writes, "At 75, I still work for Legal Assistance of Western New York. It's hard to know what will give out first — me or my 2013 Honda Civic with its 285,000 miles."

Khalil Rashid (né Parker) calls our attention to the thoughts of our generation-mate, anthropologist, ethnobiologist and student of shamanism Terence Kemp McKenna, who died untimely in 2000, from an aggressive brain cancer. "His perception of the current circumstances and direction of worldwide human society as a whole is deeply perceptive. If we ignore him, it is at the peril of ourselves and those who are yet to be born," Khalil says. He recommends "Terence Mckenna was right about us" on YouTube: bit.ly/3ulg0o9.

Lee Pearcy GSAS'71 writes, "In my dotage, since retiring in 2013 from a career in pre-collegiate teaching and administration, I have taught courses at the University of Maryland and Bryn Mawr College, edited an academic journal, and published a dozen scholarly articles and book reviews, as well as an academic book, *Aeneas* (2021)."

Lee continues, "I'm an associate editor of *Bryn Mawr Classical Review,* mentoring graduate students at Bryn Mawr and writing another book. I'm as busy as I want to be."

John Lombardo VPS'73 reports, "Approaching 75, and now too old to operate on eyes, I continue to work, full time, defending my colleagues against baseless malpractice suits. To paraphrase Teddy Roosevelt, one of life's greatest pleasures is to work hard at something meaningful, and I certainly am, with no plans to retire.

"My choice has elicited a variety of reactions from my friends, and I realize there are a number of ways to spend one's last years. Some are envious, as they feel useless, just hunting, fishing, whatever. Others, who are happy in their life of leisure, feel genuinely sorry for me. No need to. What floats my boat definitely doesn't float theirs, and that's just fine. Didn't we learn at Columbia that there are a variety of ways at looking at a situation, free of judgment and bias? I plan to continue working until I'm laid to rest, either from natural causes, or from excitement at a Lions' Ivy League football title!"

Steve Steindel writes that he "and all his family marked the 50th year of his ordination by Jewish Theological Seminary on Shabbat morning, June 3. A large attendance of members and friends were present at Congregation Beth Shalom [Pittsburgh], where he serves as rabbi emeritus."

He continues, "One focus of my remarks that Sabbath morning reflected my experience as a 'rookie and bachelor rabbi' at Beth El Congregation of the South Hills, Pittsburgh, on the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War on October 6, 1973, just four months into my pulpit career. Now the horror of the *Simchat Torah* war with Hamas has understandably tempered the excitement of a jubilee anniversary for the entire family. Son Avi is currently in Israel assisting in the purchase, shipment and distribution of necessities for the many small, near-border villages and communities facing the unknown.

"In a way, summer 2023 began for me with the gathering on June 3, with my wife, Lisa, and all our children and grandchildren to mark the jubilee of my ordination. It ended on October 7 with the horrible news of terrorist incursion into southern Israel and the bloody hostilities since as *Medinat Yisrael* mobilizes to defend itself. Autumn has indeed brought heavy clouds and somber days and nights as we face eastward to Zion in prayer and hope. Perhaps some of our celebrated CC professors of history, literature or psychology would have commented that the 50-year cycle is a metaphor for the lives of individuals and nations that we are just beginning to appreciate."

Beth Shalom has posted a writeup of the event, along with charming photographs: bethshalompgh.org/50th-anniversary.

Nathaniel Wander writes: "Before I wrap up this column, I'd like to share a few words of my own on current events. As a dual Israeli/American citizen who, following a 'blighted' military service has not returned to Israel in more than 50 years, what comes to mind are the still-resonating words of Steven Stills: 'Nobody's right if everybody's wrong' (Buffalo Springfield, 1966, 'For What It's Worth').

"If one wouldn't accept 'He hit me first,' from a child, how can it be accepted from adults; adults, moreover, who are doing more than trading childish blows?"

1970

Leo Kailas
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My longtime friend **Paul Rosen** reports: "One of my articles on cognitive bias and its role in medical diagnosis in primary care was recently published in *The Journal of Family Practice.* The article explored a number of commonly misdiagnosed and/or late diagnosis of critical diseases, including ovarian cancer and polymyalgia rheumatica. The article has been adopted into various medical school teaching curriculum programs as a training tool."

Frederic White reported: "Since the passing of my spouse, Phyllis, in 2022, I relocated to my hometown, Cleveland, to rejoin my family. I continue to serve on the Cleveland

State University College of Law Board of Visitors. The latest edition of my book, *Ohio Landlord Tenant Law*, 2023–2024 edition, was published in November."

I also heard from another Bronx Science classmate, **Larry Roth**: "I've been married for 49 years to Carole Kessler Roth BC'72. In retirement, we moved from Irvington on Hudson to beautiful Bucks County, Pa., near Doylestown. Our son Jonathan and daughter-in-law Janice live nearby, and we've been very involved with our granddaughters Jocelyn (9) and Julianna (6) since they were born.

"I graduated from American University's law school in 1975, and practiced law in the public sector for more than 30 years. I served as counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works in Washington, D.C., and as special assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York, and I represented the NYC Housing Authority in various capacities. I've lost touch with Ray Colbert '71 and **Lee Friedman**, both of whom were also members of Tau Epsilon Phi. I would love to reconnect with them."

First-time contributor **Stephen Dydo** GSAS'72, SOA'79 writes: "Since graduating from CC, GSAS and the School of the Arts, my life remained in NYC, with teaching, composing and performing music. Just before the pandemic hit, my wife, Susan, and I moved to a 35-acre farm in Leverett, a small village in the Five Colleges area of Western Massachusetts. The timing was unbelievably lucky, since we wouldn't have been able to afford anything around here a few months later! During the pause in normal activity that followed, we spent much of our time repairing and restoring our sprawling 1767 house, and were able to open a small music school on the premises. In addition, since Amherst is home to a lot of musicians working mostly in early music, we quickly became involved in a number of ensembles and have been quite busy since we arrived. One of the projects I finished recently was the revision of a suite of pieces for two recorders that I wrote in graduate school for **Larry Rosenwald** and his wife, Cynthia. We are looking forward to premiering the revision, for flute and violin, sometime this year. Shoutout to Larry and Cynthia!"

Speaking of Professor **Larry Rosenwald** GSAS'79, he reports: "Nothing in particular [to say], except that I can hardly breathe thinking about the attacks in Israel and the war in Gaza, but that's not exactly news."

My friend **Dov Zakheim** wrote: "Have been appearing on several channels on India TV(!) discussing the Israel-Hamas war. Deeply disturbed by the Hamas barbarism."

Professor **Jerry Himmelstein** reports: "I'm retiring after 42 years as a professor in sociology at Amherst College."

My Carman Hall Freshman Week suitemate Dr. **Steven Lamm** reports he "is endowed professor of medicine and the Ronald and Susan Frankel Family Clinical Professor of Medicine at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Also, director at the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Men's Health."

Well-known hand specialist Dr. **Steven Pruzansky** notes, "My son Jason '04 joined me eight years ago in my hand surgery practice at 975 Park Ave. We have a virtual surgical office in the metaverse — a first. This is most easily accessible from our website, handsport.us."

My wife was recently treated by Jason and was happy with his diagnosis and treatment.

Frequent contributor **Ralph Allemano** writes, "Very quiet life here in rural Wales. Only news: grandson born three weeks ago at this writing, Reni Syd Allemano-Hartley. Undoubtedly a future Nobel Prize winner/Olympic 5,000m champion and world record holder/etc. I love the parental prognostications!"

Fellow attorney **Michael Braun** LAW'73, who discovered the secret to retirement, tells me, "Once retired (2021), I have been spending half of each year in Marrakech, where we rebuilt and renovated a riad. I was in Salisbury, Conn., because it's still in the 90s and 100s in Marrakech but, unfortunately, my wife had returned early to Marrakech and was there when the earthquake hit. Not sure people understand how devastating it was — even in Marrakech — although our house was mostly spared. For days people were afraid to go back to their homes and slept in the parks. My wife was active in collecting and providing children's clothes, blankets, water and food for the people living in the mountains just 10–15 miles south of Marrakech."

Professor **Lewis Siegelbaum** reported, "Other than playing with my granddaughters, I spent much of the past year producing two books: *Making National Diasporas: Soviet-Era Migrations and Post-Soviet Consequences*, written with my spouse, Leslie Page Moch, for the series Cambridge Elements in Soviet and Post-Soviet History, and *Reflections on Stalinism*, co-edited with J. Arch Getty (due out in June)."

Dr. **Mike Passow** TC'87 notes that he "organized a climate change in Brazil conference for students at the Universidade Federal dos Vales do Jequitinhonha e Mucuri in Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil, in October. UFVJM partnered with the Columbia University Climate Hub Rio."

Martin Newhouse GSAS'79 writes, "Having retired as president of the New England Legal Foundation in 2021, I continue to teach legal ethics and transactional skills as an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School in Boston. I also continue to serve as a member of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Standing Advisory Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct. My wife, who retired in 2022 after more than 40 years teaching art history at Brandeis University, and I are enjoying time with our two grandchildren (with another on the way), some traveling (especially trips to New York and Philadelphia) and numerous cultural activities, especially art exhibitions; we are happy to travel to see art. Our most recent, and first since Covid, international trip was to Switzerland, Italy and Berlin in late August, which was exhilarating."

Lastly, Professor **David Lehman** (whose prolific writings on poetry, movies and life amaze me) reports: "I've been in touch with **Michael Aeschliman**, **Sam Estreicher**, **Fred Kushner**, **Bill O'Brien**, **Jim Periconi** and **Jeff Rudman**, and I am reminded of this couplet from a Yeats poem: 'Think where man's glory most begins and ends, / And say my glory was I had such friends.' My news: Marsh Hawk Press recently published *The Birth of the Best: The Making of 'The Best American Poetry'* — a sort of chronicle of American poetry from 2015 to the present. I continue to write about movies for *The American Scholar*, for example, this piece on Cary Grant: bit.ly/46nk84m.

Read more about David in *CCT*: college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2023/article/joy-poetry.

I so enjoy receiving your news and am forever impressed by your accomplishments!

1971

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After graduation, **Charles Ferguson** left Columbia with Professor Nicholas England to join the upstart California Institute of the Arts faculty in Valencia. West Coast culture was a massive change: no suits and no ties, flip flops for shoes, a Dreamin' lifestyle. Subsequently, Charles joined the faculty at Stanford University as a lecturer of classical guitar. He is celebrating his 50th year there. He recently saw **Len Renery** and keeps in touch with **Greg Wyatt**.

Ariv Levine lives in Israel. Before retiring, he worked in computers and obtained a Ph.D. in computational linguistics. Ariv studied on the West Coast; he married and also joined a Silicon Valley company's R&D department. Downsizing brought him to Haifa as strategic director of marketing. Changes in the industry forced Ariv to move back to New York City and further changes pushed him into a managerial capacity within the tech industry. He has retired from computational linguistics and lives in Jerusalem, where he is a part-time musician and full-time grandfather, an avid reader and a scholar following pursuits stimulated by his Columbia education. Ariv teaches his grandchildren piano and hangs out in the cafes in his Jerusalem neighborhood. Columbia spoiled him, he says. He expects that everyone he meets has something to contribute or draw out of you. His family is his wife, Gila Berkowitz; two children; and six grandchildren. I corresponded with him after the initial recent combat in Israel. He and his family survived.

During the last 50 years, **Don Linder** GSAS'76 has visited five continents and more than 40 countries for his work and interests. He worked in writing and educational program administration as the academic director of the International English Language Institute, Hunter College; manager of the Creative Writing Program at SUNY Binghamton; program director for *Poets & Writers;* literature director of North Carolina Arts Council; special educational consultant, Hebei and Zhejiang Medical Universities; chair, English department of the American School of Las Palmas, Spain; and academic director of American University Alumni Language Center, Thailand.

Don's world travels have allowed him to pursue photography and writing. While at Columbia he spent hours in the New York theaters, including the Thalia. That pursuit was rewarded when his screenplay, *The Last Executioner*, was filmed and played in more than 100 countries. It received the Tukkata Tong Award, Thailand's equivalent of the Golden Globe, for Best Film and Best Screenplay. He had success with his screenplay *The Cave*, concerning the rescue of 12 boys from a cave in Northern Thailand. He also wrote *Dark Karma*, *Hmongs: Ghost People* and *Ancient Angkor 4K,* a documentary for *National Geographic.* He has several scripts in the works. Don has lived in Thailand for 23 years with his wife, Wannida Jirtha. If anyone plans to be in Thailand you can contact him at donlinder@gmail.com.

Jeffry Fowley LAW'77 was an environmental attorney in the Boston office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He led the cleanup of Boston Harbor, getting it in compliance with the Clean Water Act. He retired from the EPA in 2017. Presently, he teaches part time in the Boston College Law School and the Boston College undergraduate Environmental Studies Program. His wife, Leslie, manages a flower shop and their daughter teaches English and creative writing at a preparatory school.

Kenneth Lehn LAW'74 attended the 50th reunion and caught up with **Len Renery** and **Josh Rubenstein.** He noted that **Peter Hiebert** and the Reunion Committee created a great celebration. Ken helped by contacting many classmates. He enjoyed reconnecting with friends. He regrets that more of our class could not be there. Ken managed the litigation department of his law firm for more than 20 years and took on substantial cases. He is semi-retired and happy to be selective in his casework, having reduced his personal stress. He enjoys spending time with his five grandchildren and entertaining them in his Berkshire home. **Mike Landa** visited him there last summer. Ken remains in touch with **Dean Porter.** His travels have taken him to the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park. He has plans for more traveling, and welcomes hearing from classmates: klehn@winnebanta.com.

Like many classmates' experience, **Doug Orr**'s four years at Columbia changed his life's direction. He entered as a chemical engineer, but that spring's events changed his major to economics. The summer following graduation, he and **Frank Zia** backpacked and climbed mountains across North America. That fall, he stayed in Boulder while Frank studied architecture at McGill. For the next 12 years, Doug was a carpenter, and a political organizer, while completing a Ph.D. in economics. However, he lost contact with his Columbia friends. He taught for six years at Cal State Hayward, followed by 19 years at Eastern Washington University in Spokane and then 10 years at City College of San Francisco, maintaining his commitment to the causes of social justice. In 2007, while living in San Francisco with his partner, Ellen Gold, Doug attempted to find his Columbia friends. He started with Frank, but all his searches failed. In 2019, he found Frank's obituary. Frank had become a master craftsman woodworker. His wood crafting shop was 10 miles from Doug's home. Doug still loves backpacking and skiing but has given up rock climbing.

Since retiring from a professorship at William & Mary Law School in 2020, **Ron Rosenberg** moved to Charlottesville, where he teaches at UVA Law. He looked forward to seeing old friends at Homecoming last fall.

Last summer, **Bill Christophersen** TC'78's sixth collection of poems, *Its Shadow Rakes the Grass,* was published. Bill combines free and formal verse. To paraphrase him, poetry is like working a crossword puzzle with compelling questions, and no grid box. Although solving the puzzle is the objective, the thought process used has value too. Bill edited for *Newsweek* and other magazines. He taught at CUNY and Fordham, as well.

Lloyd Emanuel retired to Charleston, S.C. USTA Eastern's Tennis Hall of Fame inducted him in 2018 after a long career as tennis director in Greenwich, Conn. He is an avid fan of Columbia tennis, which has been a top 15 NCAA program in recent years. Lloyd makes yearly trips to the metropolitan area to visit friends and family and take in the US Open. Last summer he visited **John Jaeger.** He also visited the Philip & Cheryl Milstein Family Tennis Center at Baker Athletic Complex. His freshman-year roommate and tennis teammate **Philip Milstein** and Philip's wife, Cheryl Milstein BC'82, generously donated to this new facility. Both were inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in October, in the Special Category. Lloyd met Michael Zheng '26 in Charleston when Michael competed as an amateur in a Men's ATP Tour professional event. Michael was Ivy League Player of the Year as a freshman.

It is great to hear from classmates. Your contribution to our Class Notes is vital. Please let us know what has gone on in your life since graduation and where you are now and what the future holds for you. Drop a line at l.a.preschel@gmail.com.

1972

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For reasons that aren't clear — but are clearly worthy of further research — we have a preponderance of professors in this issue's column. To start us off, **Scott Atran** GSAS'84, research professor at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and Institute for Social Research, shared the good news that he has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Scott, who earned a Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia in 1984, is a co-founder of the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict and research fellow at the Changing Character of War Centre at Oxford. And if all that doesn't fill his plate, he is also co-founder and science director at Artis International, a research institute conducting field studies in distressed world regions and developing online tools for managing socio-political conflict and competition. Scott has studied the ways scientists and ordinary people categorize and reason about nature, the cognitive and evolutionary psychology of religion, and the limits of rational choice in political and cultural conflict. He continues to work with the UN on its Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

Carlos Handy GSAS'78, a professor of physics at Texas Southern University in Houston, says, "Still here after 'all these years.'" Carlos earned a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Columbia in 1978. His research area is mathematical physics, particularly spectral bounding methods for quantum operators. But that's not all. Carlos is also president of Handy Brothers Music Co., founded by his granduncle W.C. Handy, the songwriter and composer who introduced America to the blues. The company claims the title of "the oldest Black-owned music publishing company in the world." Among Carlos' accomplishments: "One wife, two sons, two granddaughters." In keeping with family tradition, "I play the trumpet on the side." And as for the future, "I intend to keep going till I can't."

Steve Bellovin, the Percy K. and Vida L.W. Hudson Professor of Computer Science at Columbia, reports, "I'm starting to phase into retirement. This semester [Fall 2023] is likely the last class I'll teach, and it's a fun seminar — anonymity, privacy and free speech, cross-listed with the Law School and co-taught by a First Amendment litigator. After that: I have lots of writing planned, but also a lot more time to photograph birds."

I recommend Steve's X (né Twitter) feed of his birding photos, Urban Dinosaurs.

Steve recently became the only person to win the USENIX Lifetime Achievement Award ("The Flame") from the Advanced Computing Systems Association for the second time, "and both in the same lifetime." This time around the award was given for his pioneering work on law and public policy issues related to security and privacy.

From medical academia, **Ron Cohen** VPS'76, a clinical professor of pediatrics at Stanford, writes, "I'm still out on the Best Coast, in the process of retiring from the Stanford University School of Medicine after a long career in neonatology there. I consider myself reasonably successful, got my name on the cover of a textbook, did some cool things. Happy to retire in reasonably good health, hope to be able to get in a few more winters of skiing in the Sierra, global warming permitting. My three kids are great: one daughter a high school teacher, one daughter a senior at UCSB (environment and poli sci double major) and son a sophomore at Seton Hall. My wife, Aileen VPS'97 (an M.D. and a Ph.D.), works in biopharma oncology therapeutics for a growing multinational company, BeiGene, and seems willing to support my ski addiction as long as I travel with her to some of the fun destinations her work takes her to. I can barely recognize the campus on rare occasions when I do get back. Hope all are well, as I guess we all approach retirement. Take care!"

Representing the majority of our class, who spent their lives in what academics enviously refer to as "the real world," is **Gerard Aquilina.**

> *Bill Sharpe '73 went sailing in the Ionian Sea, followed by hiking in Corfu and Albania.*

After a 53-year career as a lawyer and banker in six countries, he is "now living in Greece and focusing on writing and enjoying time with my kids, grandkids and friends." A quick glance at his career reveals that he has held senior leadership positions at Merrill Lynch International Private Client, HSBC Private Bank, Barclays and UBS in the United States, United Kingdom, Brazil, Greece and Saudi Arabia. Alas, he notes that he has "lost contact with everyone from Columbia '72; some are gone and some are living." Looking back on our years on campus, he reflects, "OK, the demonstrations were important, but so much time was lost instead of being in the classroom."

Another '72er in the real world is **Kenny Greenberg.** After training at the New York Experimental Glass Workshop, in 1981 he founded Krypton Neon. Kenny creates neon art and lighting, including for many Broadway shows and films. Recently, he was among three artists selected for Long Island City's newest sculpture garden at Hunter's Point South. His animated neon work *ART DREAM* was installed in September and will be on view there for at least a year.

We also heard from **Philippe Dumont,** with whom I had the pleasure of chatting at reunion. After earning a J.D. from Georgetown and working for a time in the States, Philippe has been living in France since the '80s. He writes, "My wife, Marie-Claude, and I are both doing well and keeping incredibly busy — Marie-Claude tirelessly working to see the end of restoration work at the baroque church whose artwork she has been promoting for 40 years (baroque-stbruno.org/index.php/en) and me continuing to explain the virtues and potential of plant biotechnology to Europeans (linkedin.com/in/philippe-dumont-302b7285). A grandnephew (Louis Philippe) was born in June and we planned to be present for his baptism around Christmastime on Gorée island in Senegal, where my family keeps a home.

"Knock on wood, we are in good health and count our blessings. Like of all of us, we are deeply dismayed by the state of our planet and the current climate of hatred and violence that seems so prevalent. Disquiet and sadness also extend to campuses everywhere. Soon we will be no more and it is today's students who will need to figure out how to steward it and make it much more livable for all. Their challenges are enormous! I hope they are being taught not ever to give up!"

Ron Cohen's comment about barely recognizing the campus these days underscores how much has changed on Morningside Heights. On campus, Lerner Hall replaced Ferris Booth Hall (commemorated with a pavement plaque) as the student center; the Northwest Corner Building (still waiting for a donor to name it), full of science labs, stands on what was formerly an unoccupied piece of land; and Levien Gym covers what was once open land in front of Pupin. Barnard boasts multiple newish buildings too, including a new student center and library. And the neighborhood is sprouting 30-story plus residential buildings like mushrooms after a rain, the most recent being the 34-story Columbia tower going up on the corner of Broadway and 125th, across from the Manhattanville campus. If you haven't been back for a while, it's all worth a visit.

1973

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What a world in which we live. This is certainly a pessimist's time to thrive.

James Minter GSAS'74 wrote, pleased with our turnout at the 50th reunion: So many were "well preserved," he said, and there was a nice combo of "guys I see often, those I see occasionally and a few I was happy to see for the first time in 50 years."

He thanked all who came from near and far.

Allan Solomon was also excited to attend; he said he was moved by the sharing of personal memories from back when. He also was impressed by the offerings, even more so than in prior years, especially *Some Like It Hot* on Broadway and the gathering at Chelsea Piers. He missed the class photo, but said, "I'll be there for the 60th!"

Bill Sharpe GSAS'81 missed the reunion (as did I, BTW), but he was sailing in the Ionian Sea followed by hiking in Corfu and Albania. Bill is in his 40th year in Barnard's English Department, so he's done his time. The department gives him some rope, though, he said: Last year he was doing research at Columbia's Institute for Ideas and Imagination at Reid Hall in Paris. He adds that he "keeps on publishing so I don't end up later in *CCT*'s pages, under 'Obituaries.'" His latest book is *The Art of Walking: A History in 100 Images,* which includes two iconic photos from the year we began at the College: a man walking on the moon, and The Beatles crossing Abbey Road.

Those were clearer and easier times, methinks. May they be so once more!

1974

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Fred Bremer
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As our 50th reunion rapidly approaches, it is only natural for us to wonder how well our decision to choose Columbia College has served us during the last half-century. Would we have been better off deciding to go to a cheaper state school or even a different Ivy League institution? What constitutes value from four years of college is inevitably subjective, yet *The Wall Street Journal* has attempted college rankings annually for the last decade. This year it changed the methodology to give more emphasis to factors that influence the outcomes (such as graduation rates and post-grad salaries) while reducing the effect of the colleges' expenditures or its reputation. "This ranking views colleges as a springboard for the career life that comes afterwards," concludes the *WSJ.* Drumroll please: Columbia ranked number 5 of the top 400 colleges examined, just ahead of Harvard and barely behind Yale. While we can question the validity of these — or any — rankings, the success of our classmates in numerous fields gives it some validity!

Before giving updates on classmates, it is fitting to note the passing of our beloved former dean, Peter Pouncey GSAS'69. He was the ninth dean of the College and was probably best remembered as a leading proponent for making the College coeducational and as one of the early leaders in Columbia's revival from the turmoil of the Vietnam era (college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2023/article/memoriam-peter-r-pouncey-ninth-dean-college-was-instrumental-its-move).

The 2023 Alexander Hamilton Medal, the highest honor awarded to a member of the Columbia College community, recognized **George Van Amson** for his distinguished service to Columbia. George was president of our class during our freshman and sophomore years while a member of both the varsity football and baseball teams. Since graduation he has been a University trustee and a member of the Columbia College Board of Visitors, and has received numerous awards for his professional achievements and for the time and leadership he gives to various philanthropic organizations. After earning an M.B.A. with honors from Harvard Business School, George joined Goldman Sachs in its trading and arbitrage division. In 1992 he moved to Morgan Stanley, where he is a managing director of institutional equity sales and trading. George lives on the Upper West Side with his wife, Wendy PH'83. They have three children: Alexandra '13, Victoria '15 and Schuyler '17. George told *Columbia* magazine in 2011, "Columbia gave me so much. It gave me confidence, an intellectual foundation to build my career on, and lifelong friends."

Last August I was watching the Sunday morning news program *Face the Nation* when the screen was filled with the image of **Abbe Lowell** LAW'77. He was being interviewed about his defense of allegations against his client Hunter Biden. *The New York Times* had written earlier this year: "Even by the flexible standards of Washington's legal hired guns, Abbe Lowell's most recent move was striking. After representing Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump ... Mr. Lowell ... is now representing ... Hunter Biden." Among Abbe's involvement with White House politics was when he was chosen as chief minority counsel in the 1998 impeachment trial of President Clinton following Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky. Abbe is now a partner at the international law firm Winston & Strawn in Washington, D.C. To no one's surprise, he is co-chair of its White Collar and Regulatory and Investigation, Practice Group.

Andrew Blumenthal, son of Dr. **Steven Blumenthal,** knows how to pack on the pressure. Last January he was elected as a partner of the law firm Latham & Watkins in its Capital Markets practice. Then in May he had his first child, daughter Cameron. Grandpa Steve is a (mostly) retired pediatrician in Portland, Maine, who is still trying to find more time to play the piano.

It is exhausting just reading about the many legal and political activities of **Arthur Schwartz.** His longtime NYC law firm, Advocates for Justice, has been involved in lawsuits against New York City to stop education budget cuts, reducing subway service during the pandemic and various local issues affecting communities in lower Manhattan. He tells us his principal client is the Transport Workers Union in NYC, representing bus and subway workers. Arthur has been the Democratic district leader in Greenwich Village for nearly three decades. For the last seven years he has had a live weekly radio show on WBAI, *Advocating for Justice.* Somehow he has been able to do all of this while raising four kids (with two still in college).

And you thought your life was busy!

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of **Jonathan Cuneo** last July from melanoma. Jon earned a law degree from Cornell. Before starting his D.C. law firm (Cuneo, Gilbert & LaDuca) in 1988, he was a lawyer at the Federal Trade Commission and counsel to U.S. House Judiciary Committee chair Peter Rodino. Known as a gifted behind-the-scenes strategist, Jon will be remembered for his passion for antitrust law (he co-founded the Committee to Support the Antitrust Laws and the American Antitrust Institute). As Rep. Jerrold Nadler '69 wrote in the *Congressional Record* following Jon's death, "His commitment to justice and safety for all Americans was equal to none."

Jon played a major role in several groundbreaking civil actions including the "Joe Camel" case against R.J. Reynolds and the Enron case (where $7 billion was recovered for defrauded investors), and represented Hungarian survivors of the Holocaust in their class action suit against the U.S. Army with looting the gold and other treasures recovered from the Nazis.

Jon is survived by his wife of 29 years, Mara Liasson, and his three children.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

There you have it: the College receiving national recognition for the same quality education that has changed our lives, the accomplishments of some of our classmates and a few of recent births and deaths in our "Class of '74 family." Hope to see you at our 50th reunion!

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTES PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

1975

Robert Katz
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No news this time.

1976

Ken Howitt
kenhowitt76@gmail.com

Beethoven piano concertos going strong! Always good work music!

Classmates keep staying in touch. **Jim Berquist** and **Dan Baker** were at Homecoming. **Mark Wojciechowski** was in New York last summer and we met up for my campus tour and lunch. Mark and his wife have moved south (snow bunnies, I guess, but it is funny to call Wojo a snow bunny). Then, I put him in touch with **Mike Yeager,** who connected him with Bob Zych. In the fall, it was **Stu Miller**'s turn at lunch. We were joined by a member of the Class of 2021 and another from the Class of 2024 and had a great discussion. By the way, I still have a lot of current connections and am always willing to grab a meal at V&T if you come to NYC!

Stu retired in San Francisco 10 years ago from employment law. He does a lot of traveling through a home swap website (more than 30 trips in the last 10 years, both domestic and international). Stu was the Class of 1976 president in both our junior and senior years, and his visit to NYC fortunately coincided with the October 27 memorial service for Dean Peter R. Pouncey GSAS'69, who passed away earlier in 2023. Our lunch conversation included a lot of great Pouncey memories, and then Stu shared his perspective of the memorial service:

"**Mozelle Thompson, Dan Baker** and I were present at a well-attended celebration of the life of Peter R. Pouncey at St. Paul's Chapel. Dean Pouncey brilliantly served as dean of Columbia College during our four years there, 1972–76.

"Among those who spoke was Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, our assistant dean and then dean of students 1979–98. Dean Lehecka praised Dean Pouncey for having boosted student morale after four years of political turmoil and financial stringency at the College; for promoting coeducation, which occurred seven years after our graduation; and for having provided fearless and inspired leadership in dealing with the University administration. Dean Pouncey was a brilliant public speaker. When he spoke, we all felt proud to be at Columbia College.

"Michael Rosenthal GSAS'67, who was our associate dean, concurred that Dean Pouncey helped breathe life and hope into a college that had been battered. Dean Pouncey was at all times accessible, engaging and responsive."

My Pouncey memorial email brought this note from **Bob Wolleben:** "Your email brings back two great memories: The first is having attended Archibald Cox's speech on campus. I remember how crowded it was and the audience's consideration of Mr. Cox. The second, your picture of Dean Pouncey, reminded me that graduation day was the day my now-wife, Mary, and I told our parents we were going to marry after I finished GWU graduate school. Forty-seven years later, Mary frequently brings out the pictures of that day and tells the story to our three grown kids and their spouses. Little did we know what a journey my time at Columbia would send us on."

Dan Winchester also reached out to share his memories of Dean Pouncey. "I had a fantastic time as an undergraduate and Dean Pouncey, as well as Dean Henry 'Harry' Coleman '46, was instrumental in enabling me to be successful during those years! I'm disabled by cerebral palsy, Deaf (need a computer aided real-time (CART) transcriber) and use a power wheelchair for my mobility needs."

Dan and I had a fantastic exchange of emails and texts! In 1987, *CCT* profiled Dan after he completed his first NYC marathon in 10 hours (online at bit.ly/47IoML8). From 1986 to 1992, Dan completed six NYC marathons through Achilles International. At that point, he had earned a doctorate in psychology from Yeshiva University. Dan also provided the following update: "I team-taught for six years at Teachers College in the Speech Pathology Department as honorary assistant associate professor of speech pathology, lecturing a class of graduate students on cerebral palsy and early therapeutic intervention for infants and children with developmental disabilities. It was a blast! I also authored many academic book reviews for *Choice Magazine* and for a brief period Kirkus Reviews on selected topics."

Dan added: "I helped develop a comprehensive, holistic and detailed plan to help infants and children with pediatric traumatic brain injury and their families, the National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury Plan, or the National PABI Plan, for the country. It was submitted to Congress as part of a bill for early intervention and had quite a number of sponsors under the Clinton administration but never passed. As part of the PABI initiative I helped develop a pioneering school, the iHope School for students with pediatric brain injury. It's sited at 53rd Street and 7th Avenue in Manhattan."

Charles Martin checked in: "I recently signed a three-book contract with Level Best Books, a publisher of crime fiction, for a series featuring Inspector Lok, who appeared in my 2011 suspense novel *Neon Panic.* The first novel in the new series, *Rented Grave,* will be released this summer under my full name, Charles Philipp Martin. These days I rarely get back to New York, having gotten used to the alternating radiance and gloom of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest. No doubt some research trips to Hong Kong will be in the offing for novels two and three. I'm also happy to report that our son Toby has taken up the family music business, playing bass in a band called Squinny, in Minneapolis."

Paul Sterne: "I am retired and live in Santa Barbara, near the beach. My four kids and seven grandchildren live in California, so I had to follow the sun."

Vinnie Briccetti emailed: "In April, after 12 years on the bench, I 'retired' from regular active service as a U.S. district judge. This is commonly referred to as 'taking senior status,' and it means I can continue to work with a gradually reducing caseload while keeping my staff, chambers and courtroom. It's the greatest legal job there is, and it's even better when there's a little less of it. I'm also teaching a course at Fordham Law (my 'other' alma mater) on federal sentencing law, so I'm keeping busy. What also keeps me busy are my three grandchildren (Felix, Molly and William), with one more on the way! My wife, Grace NRS'83, retired from her long career as a nurse anesthetist a few years back and keeps busy with the grandkids, gardening, sewing and traveling. Life is good."

Another column is complete thanks to classmates. Please keep those updates coming. Remember the 50th in 2026. Shoot me an email if you want to see a basketball game and get some pizza, or just have lunch. And most of all, keep the good memories alive and keep creating more! As Vinnie says, life is good!

1977

David Gorman
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Lacking enough material for even a small column for this issue, I hope and expect to get back to you later this year. Please do keep the Class Notes column in mind going forward.

1978

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A great many of you have been pushed to the limits of your affections for Columbia by the actions and words of the institution following the October 7 attacks and civilian murders by Hamas in Israel. The most poignant of the letters has been posted on the Class Notes website. I imagine this issue will be the subject of many discussions in the months and perhaps years ahead.

It was great to see **Rick MacArthur** at Dean Peter Pouncey's memorial service on October 27. A number of wonderful speakers, including Michael Rosenthal GSAS'67 and Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, made the point that Peter was a forceful and — at times — lone voice for the unique greatness that the combination of the Core Curriculum, the city and a diverse student body, including women someday soon, would be if the College were left alone to be an independent and iconic entity within the sprawling University structure. His epic battles and at times seeming disdain for the central administration left a lifelong impression on me, and I am sure many of you, about it means to be a leader. Find the video or transcript if you can.

And while here, let me highly recommend Peter's touching short novel, *Rules for Old Men Waiting,* and his musings on beauty, violence, human nature and love. I always want to suggest Michael's very skeptical take on Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882, and in part the entire history of the modern Columbia University, *Nicholas Miraculous: The Amazing Career of the Redoubtable Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler*. Not a new book, but an excellent history of a man and simultaneously the institution that became what we consider the modern Columbia. There are many insights into why Peter had to battle to save the undergraduate College from the University.

And now to the notes, where **Jeff Zapolsky** tells us, "With my wife, Valerie, I moved to Maine after my career in medicine. We purchased a theater and run a nonprofit in Rangeley. I also lead a group of older folks in hiking, snowshoeing and kayaking. Hartley roommate Mark Milner '77 and his wife, Hattie, kayaked recently.

"I am reminded of a Golda Meir quotation: 'When peace comes we will perhaps in time be able to forgive the Arabs for killing our sons, but it will be harder for us to forgive them for having forced us to kill their sons. Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us.'"

Barry Sage-El, of Montclair, N.J., is "enjoying my fourth year of retirement and my granddaughters, who are 6, 6 and 4, and especially a recent merry-go-round adventure. Our family has made Point Pleasant, N.J., the summer family vacation spot for the last three years.

"As I write this, the world burns with hatred against its fellow man. I am not very sanguine about the future that is being left to my children and grandchildren. So may peace, good health and love find its way into your life."

Brooklyn's **Aaron Saul Greenberg** says, "I've had a truly wonderful life: spouse, children, grandchildren, Columbia education and my career in cardiology and internal medicine! We all took a great trip last summer to the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion National Parks."

Retire? Not **Stu Kricun.** "My wife and I are halfway to an empty nest. Daughter Arianna is a freshman at UCSD, but son Jordan is a high school junior. With the kids in college, I'll be working for a while!"

Chester Zahn, who has a firm in San Marino, Calif., writes, "I look forward to class reunions and taking a Baltic cruise with family."

Jerry Marshall and I hung out and had a great time at a reunion maybe 25 years ago so I was delighted to see his note pop up from Memphis; he's still immersed in that city's ancient business of cotton trading at his Yiyang Co. "The perilous state of the world today has me thinking a lot about freedom, peace and, frankly, mortality. I never really feared for the world during the Cold War, but today's chaos is different.

"Memphis is home and likely always will be. My wife, Elizabeth, and my two Chinese adopted children are great: Mollie recently married a young man she met at Ohio Wesleyan, and Ben is a commodities trader for Archer Daniels Midland here, as he follows in his old man's borderline gambling habits.

"I quit my job as head global cotton trader for Cargill in 2007 and have been happily self-employed since. I've traveled to 55 countries, but don't have to take 2 a.m. phone calls from management. This move was the second-best trade I ever made. The best was marrying Elizabeth 42 years ago.

"I still love fishing: trout in Montana, redfish in Louisiana, peacock bass in the Brazilian Pantanal and crabbing in the mangrove swamps of Pakistan are the highlights. Some mighty fine eating as well! I wouldn't change anything."

Class BMOC **Joe Greenaway** reports, "I am going through an exciting transition in life. As I shared with many of you at reunion, I have retired from the bench. After 27 years as a federal judge, it was time for a change. My wife, Valerie, and I have traveled a bit and even moved. I'm now an equity partner at Arnold & Porter and look forward to connecting with you in the city.”

David Margules writes, “It's hard to imagine that in late September I was having a Shabbat dinner with **Merrill Weber** JRN'79, LAW'84 in Jerusalem. In October Merrill tells me that he is frequently up and back to the bomb shelter as air raid sirens wail periodically. Young men and women disappear from the streets as they change from denim to khaki and join their units. Hamas has, at least temporarily, brought the entire nation together. My thoughts and prayers are with those in harm's way. The world has gotten progressively crazier and is no longer a place I recognize. As they say, ‘It's later than you think.'”

Carlton Ames LAW'81 writes to us for the first time: “I started out at the Paul Weiss firm, but seeking something more adventurous, I entered the Foreign Service and served in U.S. embassies in South Korea and the Philippines. The high points were assisting South Korea in making its transition from military rule to democracy in 1987 and the Seoul Olympics in 1988. A few years later I was in Manila, as the embassy monitored the 1992 election that led to the first peaceful transfer of power in the Philippines since the 1960s.

“In the mid-'90s, the Cold War was over, and it seemed the liberal democratic-capitalist order would triumph worldwide, so I returned to the law in large firms in Tokyo and Seoul. My return to the United States in this century took me first to Florida and then back to the New York City area. I am semi-retired, specializing in the electronic discovery work that is part of modern litigation. I live in New Jersey with my wife, Kazumi, a Japanese language teacher, and work on fiction set in East Asia.”

Go to this column at college.columbia.edu/cct to read a note from Dr. **Sheldon H. Deluty.**

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CCT

1979

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

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From **David Thomson,** “I write in response to your column in the Fall 2023 issue. Your lyrical description of black and white in MRIs and X-rays was captivating, but I did wonder where it was going, until you reminded me of the ‘Day in the Life of Columbia' section of our yearbook. So, as you suggested, I went to the bookshelf and pulled it out. But I would have done so even if you hadn't suggested it because you also mentioned the photographer, Arnold Browne '78. That would be Arnold Ruffner Aquinas Browne, as I recall his full name, which he would often let us know. He and I were friends in college, perhaps mostly because I was an enthusiastic supporter of his photographic sensibility. He was — I hope still is — a true artist behind the lens (as the Day in the Life so beautifully attests).

“But it was with a mixture of surprise and remembrance that I saw the photo on the first page of the Day in the Life section (page 81 of the yearbook). That's a picture of me, standing in — or rather sitting in — for *Alma Mater.* And that photo was taken by Nick Romanenko '82, who was one of the photographers for *Spectator* at the time. The story behind the photo: It was a rainy day, not long after graduation (so late May/early June). I was on my way to something (a summer session class, maybe?) and it was a day or two after *Alma* had been removed from her plinth for repair and replating. Poor Nick had been sent by the *Spectator* photo editors to take a picture to go with a story about *Alma* being removed for the summer. And, naturally, he was taking a picture of ... nothing. A base. And he said: ‘You got a better idea?'

“I said: ‘Let's find a chair,' and he immediately knew what I had in mind. So, we found a folding chair (somewhere), and I opened my umbrella, crossed my legs and posed for him. By that time, soaked by the rain. Wearing my high school soccer letter jacket, of all uncool things.

“I love that picture not because it is of me, but because to me it always stood in my mind for the idea that the grungy undergraduates hold up the University. Keep its spirit alive, even when its heart and soul (*Alma*) is off for vacation at the foundry. Myopic, perhaps, but well, we were young.

“The follow up story to that photo is that when *Alma* came back, a librarian was putting together a photographic show in Low Library about *Alma*'s history at the campus, and they asked to include that photo in the exhibition. Nick got it blown up to poster size (or maybe Arnold did; several of his photos were also in that exhibition). And when the show came down I needled him to give it to me if the librarians didn't care. They didn't, and I still have it. It is on the wall in my study at home.”

Go to this column at college.columbia.edu/cct to read the rest of David's note.

Thanks to **George Jirotka,** who correctly remembered the “establishment” where I ate the most delicious hamburger of my life. It was “down a flight of stairs from street level; the Campus Dining Room (aka CDR), located on a side street off Amsterdam Avenue ... I remember eating there many a time, particularly in my sophomore year, when I lived in Plimpton and CDR was known for hamburgers.”

Ted Anton “published a book, *Programmable Planet: The Synthetic Biology Revolution* (2023), covering science breakthroughs ranging from the Covid-19 vaccine to the Impossible Burger. I retired as English professor emeritus from DePaul University, which was kind enough to give me its highest honor, the Via Sapientiae Award. I split my time among Chicago, Florida and a two-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter in Texas. I enjoy getting back in touch with fellow CC alumni and look forward to reunions.”

Robert C. Klapper: “Today's Columbia thought comes from the recent passing at 102 of *Mad Magazine* legendary cartoonist Al Jaffee, of whom it was announced was bequeathing his library of drawings to Columbia. The shocking connection between *Mad Magazine,* my true source of artistic inspiration, and the hallowed halls of the Ivy League institution that we entered 48 years ago, has always been a personal connection for me but now the association of the ‘usual gang of idiots' that topped the masthead of every issue of will permanently be in the Butler Library archives.

“Growing up I did not have the privilege of art classes, but what I had was a blank piece of paper, my *Mad Magazine* and a self-teaching program copying the great works of Mort Drucker, Don Martin and Jaffee. This led to my being the cartoonist in freshman year for the illustrious *Spectator.* You might recall some of my cartoons, for example, a helicopter lowering a giant yarmulke onto the dome of Low Library. The opportunity to learn how to transfer a three-dimensional human figure onto a two-dimensional sheet of paper was certainly life changing for me, but I could not also help to absorb the hilarious sound effect words made up by these cartoonists to represent the magical sounds of catastrophe — words like KERSCHPLAT, KAPOW or THWACK, representing a sound that was beyond the usual noise when two objects collided. I remember vividly our junior year studying in my John Jay room with the window open where I could hear the sounds from the tennis court in the quad in front of John Jay. I got quite used to hearing the racquet hit the ball as I sat at my desk but I remember one day hearing the *Mad Magazine* sound of THWACK, which was different from any other tennis player I had heard. It was so strikingly different that I looked out the window to see what player made the ball hitting the racquet sound so differently than others. It was none other than Eric Fromm '86, BUS'89, probably the greatest tennis player to ever strike a ball at Columbia. He hit the ball with such ferocity and velocity that I now understood what THWACK really meant.

"Columbia College might have been the height of my liberal arts journey but there is no doubt that the beginning of this path began with *Mad Magazine.* It's nice to now know the circle is now complete. Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

Michael C. Brown
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

"And now I must confess, I could use some rest
"I can't run at this pace very long
"Yes, it's quite insane, I think it hurts my brain
"But it cleans me out then I can go on ..."

—Jimmy Buffett, "Trying to Reason with Hurricane Season," 1974

I attended the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame (HOF) dinner on October 12 at Cipriani 25 with **Eric Blattman** and **Shawn FitzGerald.** It was great to see so many familiar faces and great athletes of the past, especially the Class of '76 baseball team. We had the pleasure of playing with many of them in '77.

The Class of '80 was represented by one of the greatest soccer players of all time, **Shahin Shayan** SEAS'81, BUS'84, SEAS'85. I met Shahin in fall '76 while living on 13 Carman. We rode the bus to Baker Field daily, and one could tell that he was a special player. His HOF page (bit.ly/3MW9GK9) notes: "To this day, nobody has accumulated more points in a Columbia men's soccer uniform than Shayan. His 113 career points stand above the rest, while his 48 career goals are second. He also holds multiple top-five spots in single-season goals and points, his best coming during the 1979 Final Four run that saw him score 18 goals and accrue 42 points. ... Shayan's career accolades include two First Team All-Ivy selections, two NSCAA All-Region selections, two Ivy League Championships, two NCAA Quarterfinal appearances and the program's first NCAA Final Four. ... Shayan is chair of the board of Hoda International Financial Engineering Co., a private investment banking/corporate finance advisory operation. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Islamic Development Bank/Islamic Research & Training Institute in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and vice-chair of the Board of Trustees of several charitable institutes helping orphans in Iran."

See the nearby photo!

Ehsan Ahmed "retired from teaching French language and literature at Michigan State University on June 1, 2020, after a career spanning 33 years. I earned a Ph.D. in romance languages and literatures from Princeton University in June 1987. I held temporary appointments at Tulane University, Stanford University and Louisiana State University before moving to Michigan State. I was baptized last Easter at Our Lady of Solitude in Palm Springs, Calif. I have devoted my research to matters of religion and politics in 16th-century France."

CC'80 classmates (left to right) Shawn FitzGerald, Shahin Shayan and Mike Brown at the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner, held on October 12 at Cipriani 25. Lions soccer player Shayan was inducted as a member of the 2023 class.

Enjoying the Homecoming Football Dinner at The Players in NYC on October 13 were, left to right: Mike Brown '80, Lions football interim head coach Mark Fabish, Shawn FitzGerald '80 and Joe Ciulla '80.

On a sad note, **Daniel Larkins** passed away in October. As **Kevin Baker** aptly put it, "Daniel was a free spirit and beloved by all who knew him. But much more, after being approached by many Ivy League colleges and universities, Daniel chose Columbia, where he studied sociology. Upon graduation from Rutgers Law, he practiced personal injury law for more than 20 years, advocating for the injured against those who wronged them. These David and Goliath efforts were a lifelong passion.

"Daniel was a coach, husband, dad, grandpa, brother, brother-in-law, environmental commissioner, planning board member, Knight of Columbus, mayoral candidate, tutor, unashamed socialist and mentor. In all things, Daniel put others before himself. When the opportunity arose to serve others in a hands-on way, Daniel became a social worker at Keystone Human Services. Guiding dozens of disadvantaged folks to employment success brought him great joy. He will be missed." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

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Columbia Walks on the Wild Side: The September 1979 Lou Reed Concert and Other Misadventures: Some class members may remember that Columbia was an occasional concert venue during our years there. John Morace '80 headed Carnival Concerts, which brought John Cale and The Ramones to campus in spring 1979. That semester, his team, which included **Steve Williams** BUS'87, hatched a plan to bring Lou Reed to campus in the fall. "We were new to producing concerts and learning things on the fly," John recalls. "College and University administrators couldn't confirm dates for us, saying that all other types of events took precedence. Given Lou's schedule we had to settle for September 21 — Rosh Hashanah, not an ideal night for filling up McMillian Auditorium (now Miller Theatre), but we sold out the show in a day."

The quick sellout was a surprise, as the Clash was playing downtown at The Palladium the same night, and there was a lot of overlap between the two fan bases. **Bob Maddox** BUS'88, a self-described big Reed fan, nevertheless admits that "all the really cool kids were down at the Palladium that week." Those who did witnessed Clash bassist Paul Simonon smash his instrument against the stage. The sight was captured on the cover of their next album, the legendary *London Calling*.

The opening act for Reed was supposed to be campus favorite Needle Dik, featuring Kevin Trainor GSAS'90; Larry Blasius '89; Milton Perez '80, SEAS'81; Marshall St. Clair '80, BUS'82; and Robert "Barbeque Bob" Pomeroy '80. But by concert time, they were replaced by Get Wet, a new wave/pop group. The reasons for the switch are still unclear, though Reed's management might have figured in it. **Dave Cook**, on his Columbia Bands website (bit.ly/47jPKch), briefly mentions one student who refused to attend "because Needle Dik was kicked off the bill." He called it "one of the all-time stupid concert decisions I've ever made."

Steve Williams was the front-of-the-house manager and treasurer for the concert. He remembers the auditorium as being full, rowdy and hyper-energetic by curtain time. He also noted that Reed had a couple of surprising fans: "I knew Nobel laureate physics professor I.I. Rabi from my work at Chemical Bank. He told me that he walked by, saw the crowd spilling onto Broadway and that he was so happy to see Reed at Columbia. Imagine that! An 80-year-old Nobel Laureate liked Reed's music. A special person. I also spoke with Dean Arnold Collery, who originally showed up at the start of the concert to make sure the building was not on fire, and then later told me that it was 'the best thing to happen on campus in a long time.'"

The concert changed the life of Suzanne Vega BC'81. Not yet famous but a regular performer at the University's folk music hangout, Postcrypt Coffee House, she has repeatedly cited the importance of attending this event, her first rock concert. Though she claims she was appalled by Reed's swearing and his habit of flicking lit cigarettes into the audience, she had an epiphany afterward: "I realized I could write about things I had experienced without softening up the edges or apologizing for it or putting it in a nice package." Eight years later, Vega's "Luka" became the biggest hit by a Columbia alum since "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (1970), sung by Art Garfunkel '65. Vega later said that she listened to Reed's *Berlin* the day she wrote her own song, "probably to sharpen and focus myself."

Steve and Scott Simpson SEAS'77, SEAS'79 remember the evening's craziness. Steve: "Within the first 10 minutes, a tall, blond woman clad in five-inch heels and little else jumped up on the stage to dance with Lou. John escorted her off, and I had to hold off several other wild-eyed fans from following her lead." Scott: "The stage was raised three feet above the ground, so from my front-row perspective, I was looking up (in awe) at Lou's face."

Dan Breslau '83 had been on campus for less than a month when he reviewed the show for *Spectator* (bit.ly/3MRn3ex); he now recalls the piece as overly critical. He remembers that Reed was "energetic but pissed off, seemingly about the sound system. He reacted by smashing several mics on the floor, into pieces. In retrospect, I think it was a better show than what I described! Maybe because at the time we didn't feel like we were in the presence of a legend, but we were. And of course, I was only 18."

Reed's biggest hit, "Walk on the Wild Side," was not performed, at least by most accounts. Although the night was spiced with profanity, Reed concluded the show with a respectful gesture to his hosts, saying that he "always wanted to be at Columbia, to be a writer." (Years later, when his lyrics were collected into a 1992 book, *Between Thought and Expression: The Lou Reed Anthology*, Reed cried when he was presented with it.)

Some controversy followed in the concert's aftermath, as the Student Council refused to cover a $735 deficit. Dean Collery — who had privately praised the concert — admonished Williams and Morace for bad planning, and John ended up writing a check for the deficit out of his own pocket. Despite the expense, he remains very proud of the concert, remembering it as immensely satisfying to bring an artist he so admired to the Columbia community.

Steve's misadventures during that semester were not over. That Halloween, he was caught adorning *Alma Mater* with a toga to advertise a party at Delta Psi. Later, Steve remembers, "I played in the famous Rising Kazoo Esplanade organized by our dearly departed **Harlan Simon** (his obituary was in the Fall 2020 issue of *CCT:* college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/fall-2020/article/obituaries). An important football game was coming up and we were determined to do something outrageous, not the traditional, tired college band playing 'Who Owns New York?' while marching in formation to become a giant 'C.' So, to the dismal kazoo sounds of Richard Strauss' *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (the theme from *2001: A Space Odyssey*), Harlan called out the steps for the 40-strong 'band' of kazoo-ers to form a giant phallus. As the music came to a crescendo, five cheerleaders ran through, waving white pom-poms as they reached the tip of our creation. This time, I was admonished by President McGill, whom Dean Collery had brought in; as McGill handed me a written warning, he was laughing hard! Needless to say, I was dropped from the Board of Managers. With all that, I had to really buckle down to keep my place in the College, but somehow everything worked out."

Go to this column at college.columbia.edu/cct to read more about John and Steve and to get links to the Reed concert.

1982

Columbia College Today
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CCT thanks **Andrew Weisman** for his 16 years of service as class correspondent. We are now in need of a new class correspondent. If you are interested, please email cct@columbia.edu, and use the subject line "CC'82 class correspondent."

Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for news and updates.

John J. Cifu writes, "I retired on June 2 after 40-plus years in the accounting field. Perfect timing, as I became a grandfather last March and now get to spend more time with my adorable granddaughter. Playing lots of golf and enjoying life 25 miles northwest of Tampa in Odessa, Fla."

Scott D. Levy sends news: "I recently joined the law firm Pierce & O'Neill in Houston. We specialize in oil and gas litigation. I spent most of my leisure time on the Gulf Coast in Galveston with my son Sam (9)."

Nobuhisa Ishizuka LAW'86 shares, "A highlight of last summer was my opportunity as chair and president of USRowing to lead the U.S. delegation to the World Rowing Championships in Belgrade, Serbia, where the U.S. team was able to qualify 10 boats for Paris 2024, earning overall fourth place on the medals table. We topped that off with a record performance at the Pan Am Games in Chile, where we topped the medals table and had our best showing in nearly 20 years. A highlight of the World Championships was seeing Charlotte Buck '18 stroke the women's 8+ to a come-from-behind silver medal, and the entire team being hosted by the U.S. ambassador, Christopher Hill, and his wife, Julie, at their residence."

Go to this column at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo!

Dr. **Joseph Kannry** name-checks an old friend: "Reading the Winter/Spring 2023 issue put a smile on my face because I saw name that I hadn't heard in more than four decades: **Jim Geoly.** We had the same Contemporary Civilization class, but I can't remember the name of the TA who taught it. I remember we used to politically criticize books and got criticized for not reading the books before criticizing them. I'm glad to hear he's doing well. Love to have him drop me a line."

1983

Roy Pomerantz
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I attended the Homecoming game, which was a loss to Penn, on October 14. Prior to the game, I met President Minouche Shafik at the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting. Dean Josef Sorett also spoke at the meeting. Columbia College and Columbia Engineering's admit rate for the Class of 2027 was 3.9 percent; 57,126 applications were received. The new class is diverse and represents all 50 states and 86 countries (read more online: bit.ly/47pApXQ).

Kevin Berkowitz: "I live in Thessaloniki, Greece, with my family. I have been in this region for

20 years. I am a teacher of English, history and robotics for primary and secondary grades. I also lead tours of Thessaloniki and northern Greece for visitors. If you would like more information on visiting Greece and the southern Balkans, please contact me at +30 6930 777 237, or at kberkowitz3@gmail.com."

Michael Travisano: "We've been happily living in Minnesota since 2007. I'm the head and director of graduate studies for the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota. Good memories of Professor Lipman Bers discussing the intelligence of pencils when doing calculus."

Mark Sharp: "I've been busy for the last 30 years or so living in Seattle, raising a family and practicing architecture. My wife, Kathryn, and I own the house now so I guess that means we're settled in. Both of our boys are at college — the youngest in NYC, but at Fordham. The oldest is on track to graduate in the spring from Whitman College. I've been traveling around our northwest mountains the whole time I've lived here and biking all over town as my main mode of local transport. I don't sing or play guitar much anymore but love live music. My latest event was a night out seeing Sammie Rae & The Friends, from Brooklyn. Sometimes I think I could happily plug back into New York. And then I go hiking and it brings me literally back to Earth."

Michael Travisano '83 is the head and director of graduate studies for the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota.

Bruce Abramson SEAS'87: "Last summer I relocated to Sarasota, Fla., to join the team working to rebuild the New College of Florida. We're a small, public, residential liberal arts college designated by statute as 'Florida's honors college,' though it had been a while since we'd attracted honors students or provided a bona fide liberal education. We've recently reinvigorated our curriculum to draw a bridge from Ancient Greece to Information Age America, emphasize critical thinking and attract the sort of honors students driven to produce world-class research projects as undergrads. It's an exciting experiment in institutional reclamation that anyone who benefited from Columbia College's Core Curriculum should cheer."

Steven Rubenstein GSAS'95: "David Rousseve and Steven Rubenstein were married at the Houdini Estate in Los Angeles on July 10. David is a choreographer/writer/director/performer, a magna cum laude graduate of Princeton University and a Guggenheim Fellow.

"Steven earned a Ph.D. in English literature from GSAS. He teaches AP literature at Beverly Hills H.S. and owns The Industry Edge, a software company he founded that caters to the entertainment industry. He co-produced the film *John Tucker Must Die,* and has worked on many film projects with Turner Pictures and Mace Neufeld Productions, where he was director of development. His previous marriage ended in divorce; he has two children, Michael Spitzer-Rubenstein '12, of Brooklyn, N.Y., who is a business consultant with Pricewaterhouse Coopers and married to Gabriella Geselowitz of New York, and Jessica, of San Diego, who is a certified behavioral technician.

"The ceremony included Jewish traditions — a chuppah and the breaking of a glass — as well as African-American traditions — 'jumping the broom.' The wedding party, including Steven's mother, delivered their own, original updated versions of the *sheva brachot,* or seven blessings. Steven's son, Michael, and David's dear friend and artistic collaborator, Julie Tolentino, acted as best people. After the ceremony the grooms led the guests in a 'second line' dancing procession to honor David's family's New Orleans roots.

"David and Steven met at a Los Angeles gallery performance of Julie's. Unbeknownst to the other, at the time they were both on a date with the same man, who, they later supposed, valued efficiency. Both sparked to one another and not to their date; afterward, Steven sent David an email via his website to ask him out. The two hit it off immediately and found that they had so much in common: They discovered that they both lived in New York and Paris at the same times, their paths inevitably crisscrossing for years."

My wife, Debbie, and I attended a 90/60 birthday celebration for Dr. Allen Hyman '55 and his son Dr. Joshua Hyman '85, VPS'90. I met Allen when planning the tribute for former *CCT* correspondent Gerald Sherwin '55, aka "Mr. Columbia." To honor Jerry, I am ending my Class Notes the same way he did for decades: Love to all! Everywhere!

1984

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Dennis Klainberg
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As your class scribe, my raison d'etre is to help alumni stay in touch and stay active in Columbia affairs, especially by promoting events such as our 40th reunion this coming spring.

While your previous submissions were strictly related to family, professional accomplishments and fellowship, current world affairs as debated and acted out at Columbia were on the minds of so many.

The first response to my e-blast was from dear friend and class leader (and former College Senator) **Jim Weinstein,** who, with the support of **David Cavicke** and **Mark Simon,** suggested we leave the column blank as a statement of what they felt the University was doing to denounce Hamas and protect Jewish students on campus.

In an effort for some consensus, I floated the statement to the classmates who initially responded to my e-blast. There were about 20 of us involved in the discussion, and we recognize that we can't speak for all of our classmates. But, based on their input and events unfolding literally minutes before my deadline, here is the essential message we wanted to send:

"Over the years, in the wake of societal inequities, disasters and tragedies, Columbia professors and administrators have proclaimed unwavering support for truth and justice. In view of the 200 Israeli hostages, and the worst loss of Jewish life in one day since the Holocaust, we urge the University and College to unequivocally denounce Hamas — as have the presidents of Barnard, and other institutions — for the barbaric October 7 attack. In the spirit of intellectual freedom, they must provide leadership by establishing a peaceful platform for education, debate and discussion (as witnessed at Dartmouth), especially to shed light on and discredit the virulent anti-Israel viewpoint of Professor Joseph Massad. As alumni with a continued, vested interest in Columbia's future, we insist the leaders of alma mater take action to safeguard its mission, protect its students and openly condemn terror and injustice to all."

Whereas there are varying degrees of agreement/disagreement, I submit that our commitment to the College is robust and vibrant.

Special thanks to **Mark Siegel, Frank Lang** and **Josh Froimson** for taking time to review the original statement, and helping steer the conversation in a positive, spirited way. I am also grateful for the concerns, varying opinions and passionate advice of **Bernardo Burstein, David Lewinter,** fellow *CCT* scribes Roy Pomerantz '83 and Jon White '85, Sachems brother Steve Weinberg '66, and friend and neighbor Joel Halio '74.

Thanks also for the feedback from **Kenneth Bernstein, David Wisen, Howie Snyder, Jeffrey Rashba, Michael Saber, Ben Pushner, Mike Sauerman** and **Adam Dicker,** whose son, Shimshon '21, is now serving in the Israeli army.

A number of classmates offered updates on other subjects, and with their indulgence, I will include their messages in the next column.

If there is any takeaway in this case, we're ready to REUNITE! See you this spring on campus!

1985

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This is Part 2 of our "so now that we're turning 60 …" column and updates.

Greg Jarrin: "Turning 60 will be exciting. I have realized that I am

EITAN ROTHMAN SEAS'17

Having a great time at the Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band concert at the Meadowlands on August 30 were, left to right: Mark Rothman '84, his son Eitan Rothman SEAS'17, Peter Richards '18 and Aris Togias '18.

due for a complete change in course. Being a general surgeon for 29 years is physically demanding. After taking trauma and acute care call for 26 years, I am grateful that in September 2020 I moved to a hospital that has a lower volume of emergency surgery. Being in Whiteriver, Ariz., on the White Mountain Apache Tribe has helped me transition to the idea that I am closer to the end of my surgical career than the beginning. My next chapter is in the early planning stages.

"Our oldest children — Julian, Luke and Felicia — are in graduate school, and our youngest — Chloe — is a senior in college. They are spread throughout the country in Fayetteville, Ark.; Tucson; New York City; and Moraga, Calif. There will be two graduations in May, for Felicia and Chloe.

"My wife, Vanessa Medina-Jarrin, recently earned a doctorate of nurse practitioner and was promoted to captain in the Public Health Service. She is presently stationed at Whiteriver as part of our leadership. I am incredibly proud of her accomplishments. We are both excited, as her future could land her on the East Coast soon.

"We have mourned the passing of my father, Manuel Jarrin. He was 88 when he died on October 21, 2022. He was born and raised in Washington Heights, went to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and was an industrial designer for close to 40 years before retiring to Liberty, N.Y., in the Catskills. My father was very proud of my Columbia College education. He will be missed."

Larry Lurio lives in Oak Park, Ill. He writes, "I'm a physics professor at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb and working in the field of X-ray physics. I married Colleen Donohoe last April. We took a delayed honeymoon until after the end of the school year and had a wonderful honeymoon in Italy.

"My thoughts on turning 60: I remember when I graduated from Columbia having a shelf full of all the books from CC and Lit Hum. I had read just enough of each book to get by for the class. I thought, 'Someday, when I have more time, I'll need to actually read these books through in full.' Maybe 'someday' is coming?"

For **Andrew Wolfram** GSAPP'88, "Last year was a year of big changes. I got certified as an integral coach after a yearlong course, was treated for prostate cancer and in October moved to Milan with my husband, Michael. He's doing a master's in photography degree here, and I work part time for my California architectural firm and am building my coaching practice. So far we love living in Milan. I enjoy practicing my Italian and we go on lots of fun weekend adventures by train with our dog, Bibi. Drop me a line if you are planning to be in northern Italy."

Jared Gollob VPS'89: "This is my first Class Note. Better late than never! I suppose my stepdaughter Lily BC'27's first day as a Barnard freshman reminded me that it was time to do this. My wife, Julie, is a Barnard grad, as is my mother, and I have fond memories of taking German classes at Barnard throughout my Columbia undergrad years. I have a 14-year-old stepson, Jake, and a 6-year-old son, Judah, who both aspire to attend Columbia. Jake is adamant that he does not plan to apply to Barnard like his sister; Judah plans to play baseball for Columbia like Lou Gehrig CC 1923. After graduating from VP&S, I trained in medicine and oncology in Boston at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and then spent 15 years doing clinical and laboratory oncology and immunology research in academic medical centers in the Harvard and Duke systems before going into biotechnology in 2007 at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge and then Kymera Therapeutics in Watertown. I'm chief medical officer at Kymera, developing targeted protein degrader drugs for cancer and autoimmune diseases. Both Alnylam and Kymera are platform-based biotech companies where the chemistry required for RNA interference (Alnylam) or targeted protein degradation (Kymera) drives the ability to create drugs for previously undruggable targets, so I look back on my days taking 'Super-Orgo' organic chemistry at Columbia with Professors Gilbert Stork and Thomas Katz and realize it was worth the pain.

"I recently published my first play, *All the Scattered Pages,* which is about Mozart's *Requiem* and his wife Constanze's role in completing the work after his death. I'm not sure I can fully credit Music Hum for my interest in Mozart, but I do remember playing the Steinway pianos in Schermerhorn and Livingston lobby (or was it Hartley?), listening to old Mozart records in the Schermerhorn library and playing Mozart while DJing in the very early morning or afternoons at WKCR.

"I live in Newton, Mass., with my wife and boys, and plan to visit Lily as often as possible at Barnard with Julie so we can go to Tom's, Koronet Pizza (I remember when a giant slice was 90 cents) and The Hungarian Pastry Shop."

Turning 60 can also become a career milestone service moment. Two of us have recently taken on leadership roles in our areas of expertise. Let me congratulate my good friend **Lane Palmer,** who has been elected president of the American Urological Association. He begins a three-year commitment this May as he becomes president-elect; he will be president beginning in May 2025 for one year, followed by a year as immediate past president. He is the first AUA president to practice pediatric urology full time.

And yours truly has been nominated to serve as chair of the National Coffee Association, representing the U.S. coffee industry from crop to cup since 1911 — one of the oldest trade associations in the nation. I have been vice-chair since March 2022. My two-year term officially begins this March, followed by a two-year term as past chair. Many of my fellow board members work with the nation's largest coffee roasters, retailers and traders/brokers, so I am truly honored to lead such a great group.

Looking forward to more of your "three-score" updates.

1986

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Congratulations to **Scott Weber** on joining Husch Blackwell, a national law firm. He and his partners closed the doors on Norris & Weber, but he's excited about joining Husch Blackwell's Private Wealth practice team as a partner. Scott, based in Dallas, is a veteran trusts and estates lawyer.

During this very challenging time in Israel, we hope classmates and their families there are safe and remain so. Four classmates live in Israel: **Morris Hartstein, Lauren Rosen Herman, Howie Oster** and **David Schwartz.** If I've missed someone, please let me know.

1987

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I'm so happy to be able to share updates not only from old friends of the column but also some first-time contributors!

First up is an update from **Anderson Tepper,** who wrote that following two decades at *Vanity Fair* he has been focusing on his work as a writer and curator covering international literature, since 2020. (His literary worldview, he said, was greatly influenced by his Columbia professor, writer Amiri Baraka.) He contributes profiles and reviews to *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *World Literature Today*, among other publications, and is chair of the international committee of the Brooklyn Book Festival and guest curator of the PEN World Voices Festival. (The 2024 Festival, its 20th, will run in New York City May 8–11.) More recently, he's taken on the role of curator of international literature at City of Asylum, a nonprofit that provides sanctuary to exiled and endangered writers and hosts cultural programs at its performance space and bookstore on Pittsburgh's Northside.

Mitch Goldman, another first-time contributor, sent the following: "Believe it or not, after all these years, I still do my Monday night slot on WKCR. Each episode is a listening session with a musician guest guiding us through live, unreleased jazz recordings. Now also a podcast, Deep Focus, has thousands of listeners in 145 countries.

"I am happy to say that the WKCR alumni network is mighty. I hear from them when they tune in to Deep Focus and I have caught up with quite a few of them when they have been in NYC or if I find myself near their hometowns.

"Part of the joy of doing Deep Focus is the opportunity to mentor the next generation. The current crop of students is as bright, energetic and highly motivated as any I have known. I am happy to report that the station is in very good hands."

The film person in me (as well as classmate!) was so excited to hear **Tim Kennelly**'s update: "In July and August 2023, I was one of the few dozen expert projectionists in the United States running *Oppenheimer* in 70mm film during its record-breaking run. In May, I joined the projection staff at historic Paramount Studios in Hollywood and marked my seventh year as chief projectionist at the Television Academy Theater in North Hollywood."

Anyone aside from me remember projecting films on campus for the various film societies?! Tim's role is way cooler!

It's also great to hear from **Yahphen Chang:** "After graduating, I worked in investment banking in New York City, then went to Oxford to complete an M.Phil. and eventually made my way to Toronto (married a Canadian, and we have three daughters; the oldest is at Columbia, the middle is in her first year at Brown and the youngest is in 10th grade). In Toronto, I continued working in investment banking and eventually switched to the investment management side of the industry. I attended Columbia Homecoming 2023 and Family Days weekend, the last chance to attend before my daughter Paige Manning '24 graduates. We watched the football game under a steady, moderate downpour, and Columbia football fans were out in force under their umbrellas, getting soaked while cheering the team against Penn! (Unfortunately, the Lions lost to the Quakers 17–20). The campus is just as beautiful as it was during my day, and visiting East Campus, where my daughter lives, brought back lots of good memories! I attended a Parent Leadership Council meeting at the Lenfest Center for the Arts at Columbia's Manhattanville Campus, at 129th Street. I was so impressed with that campus — what a great addition to the University (I had barely ever ventured north of 120th Street during my college days). If you haven't had a chance to see it, I encourage a visit!"

Several Carman 1984–85 friends — left to right, Stefanie Katz-Rothman, '88, Margaret Traub '88 and Henry Hershkowitz '88 — met up in NYC on October 13 to dine and visit. Jacob Goldberg '88 was there too, but in his words, "is so old, the camera captured only light and space."

Some classmates have been traveling the world (no, I'm not jealous at all — much). **Laurie Kearney** hiked 101 km of the Camino Portuguese (Vigo to Santiago) while her husband competed in the World Triathlon Championship Finals Pontevedra.

In between some exciting travel to Zambia and Argentina, **Luis Duany** has started a position as CUNY university assistant dean in K16 Initiatives, managing early-college programs and supporting a strong network of secondary public schools and their leaders. He lives in Queens and continues to enjoy the wonders of NYC!

Dean Anderson sent in this wonderful update: "On the 40th anniversary of moving into Carman and in my best attempt to disprove the adage that with age comes wisdom (thus repudiating much of what I didn't learn during the Core Curriculum), I managed to put myself in several ridiculously silly/dangerous scenarios last year in an effort to somehow convince myself that I am not in fact approaching the three-score milestone. The good news is that these situations most always involve other likeminded (misguided!) CU alumni and their spouses/significant others: barreling down I-10 in West Texas on an old Suzuki Boulevard motorcycle while trying to avoid extremely large, fast moving semi-trucks amidst rain and wind storms with buddy **Mark Foss;** hiking 14,000-ft. mountains in Colorado ('Gasp, gasp, are you kidding me, that is a false summit?') while avoiding moose and cougars with fellow swimmer Drew Lane '88; golfing (if you can call it that) with myriad Sigma Chi brothers, including **Joe Policastro** and **Rob Flaherty** in Florida; and hiking above Vienna with the Columbia Alumni Association Austria chapter on a trail much better suited for non-vertigo types. Fortunately, I still have a sense of humor although my mind is long gone, and my body is rapidly following. Interesting that CC'87 classmates are right there with me. Roar, Lion, Roar! (My 18-year-old daughter rolls her eyes)."

Claire Franken Katz announced the engagement of her oldest son, Jeremy Katz (J.D., M.B.A., L.L.M.) to Macayla Baer. Her other son, Oliver Katz (J.D.), is in NYC and her daughter, Hannah Katz (B.S., M.S.), is a mechanical engineer for Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut. Claire said, "I have a successful concierge internal medicine practice in Fort Lauderdale, and I have been married to Alan Katz SEAS'85, SEAS'87 for 35 years and counting!"

Closer to home, **Demetria Gallegos** JRN'88 married Mark Galan '86 last year. She is a journalist at *The Wall Street Journal.* He is a pathologist at Hoboken University Medical Center. They live in Hoboken.

And last, but certainly not least, my dear friend **Judy Kim** is back living in NYC, working in compliance at Intesa Sanpaolo, where she takes weekly Italian language lessons and drinks good coffee! She said, "I am looking forward to my eventual retirement, when I plan to hang out at the beach and return to writing scripts! Maybe I will even sell one …."

1988

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I'm writing this column in the early aftermath of the Hamas terror attack on Israel and share the concern of many classmates for the welfare of friends and relatives living in the Jewish state. I know of several classmates who live in Israel; many others have family there. **Lee Haddad** called from his home in Har Adar to say he is coping, but his family of six is worried for their safety. **Donna Renaud** wrote, "No update, but I am sending thoughts to the community."

Heather Ruddock commented on the nearly 40-year friendship she shares with her freshman roommates. "**Jodi Oh** (née Wu), **Michelle Rivera** and I were suitemates in Carman 708," she said. "We had regular Zoom calls during the pandemic and finally reconnected in Florida last February. Fun fact: Jodi and Michelle's youngest children currently attend Columbia College!"

Mako Yoshikawa checked in from Boston, where she teaches creative writing and literature. "I've been AWOL from all CC events and would love to be brought back into the fold," Mako said. "I have a memoir, *Secrets of the Sun,* coming out in February. I'm also a professor and the director of the M.F.A. program at Emerson College."

Congratulations to **Matt Sodl** and **Nick Leone,** doing us proud as honorary captains during Columbia's November 4 football game against Harvard. As for the Homecoming game the month before, Matt said, "Despite the horrible weather, we had a good turnout of CC'88 alums. In our football alum group were Nick, **Dave Putelo, John Miller, Mike Bissinger** and me."

Jacob Goldberg sent an update about another meet-up of classmates in Manhattan. "**Henry Hershkowitz, Stefanie Katz-Rothman, Margaret Traub** and Jake Goldberg, four old friends from Carman '84–'85, gathered in NYC to dine for no occasion except to enjoy each other's company." See the nearby photo!

Jake continued with updates about each of the dinner attendees. "Marge is approaching 20 years living in Los Angeles, the last 18 working for the humanitarian organization International Medical Corps. She sometimes tires of talking about traffic on the 405. Henry lives downtown in NYC with his husband and their 18-year-old twins. He is a real estate broker in Manhattan, helming the HLH Team at Compass. Stefanie and her husband live on the Upper East Side. Their son is CC'26, living in McBain and enjoying Contemporary Civilization. Stefanie is a leader on several not-for-profit boards. Jake and his wife of 32 years live in the New York suburb of Philadelphia. He and his wife are blessed with three children, each making their own way. Jake is a simple country lawyer, having dedicated his career to corporate transparency."

Finally, good news for anyone traveling to the Hudson River Valley. **Chris Williams** wrote, "**Pete Lukowitsch** and I are gainfully employed. We work at the Spins Bowl bowling alley in Poughkeepsie. Anyone from the Class of '88 is welcome to drop in and say hi 'n' bowl with us!" Pete graciously added, "We can get anyone a 10 percent discount."

Keep the updates coming! It's been great hearing from everyone through ups and downs. We'll hope for more of the good, but classmates are here for you regardless.

1989

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Emily Miles Terry
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Liz Gabre-Sellassie writes that she's still in Manhattan after all these years with "No retirement in sight! My business, Designer Loft Bridal, is moving to bigger digs — an 8,000-sq.-ft. loft at 225 W. 35th St.," where she's knee deep in electricians, plumbers and contractors. Liz pivoted from her career as a high-powered attorney and co-founded Designer Loft Bridal more than 20 years ago. "It's all super exciting but hectic!" she says. But Liz manages to keep in touch with Columbians such as Tamara Straus '91, GSAS'98 in San Francisco and **Rebecca Fine** LAW'93, **Paige Stevenson, Rebecca Moss** VPS'99 and **Angelo Ragaza** in New York. She also hopes to visit **Adam Koffman** and **Kate Movius** in Los Angeles this year.

A few months ago, I asked some classmates what they do for "fun," and here are some of the replies:

Richard Hecht: "I jumped into the 'refreshing' 50-degree Long Island Sound ... for three minutes."

Matt Engels: "I've been coaching an eighth-grade football team for the last 10 years."

Thomas Spencer: "I went to Costa Rica with my kids and mom. Stayed at an RIU resort. Best time ever!"

Dr. **Tony Vinals:** "Over a two-day hike, my wife, Dr. Lise Pieroth-Vinals, and daughters, Matilde and Theresa, all climbed to the top of Mount Fuji (3,776 m) in Japan. We all have a close Columbia connection. My wife did her training in ophthalmic surgery at CUIMC/NYP, and both girls were born at the Medical Center and spent a summer semester studying at the University. Although exhausted, we were very proud of our accomplishment."

And last but not least, **Dave Kooby** wrote from Atlanta: "For fun at home, we like to play Scrabble and backgammon, and shoot pool. Outside, we like to listen to live music (most recent were Styx and The Eagles), and of course travel (best trips in the last couple of years were Turkey/Greece, Portugal and Hawaii). I recently passed the 20-year mark as a cancer surgeon and professor at Emory University. I have two awesome teenagers, and I recently married the love of my life, Jodi Green, an ERISA attorney, who has been my partner and confidant for the last 12 years. We send a message of peace and unity to all. Roar, Lion, Roar!"

We have a reunion this spring — a whopper of a number — but when I asked **Ed Kopel** about it, he wrote, "I remember when my mom (BC'56) returned from her 35th reunion and said how nice it was that things had shifted from the importance of career and achievement toward a fundamental humanity."

Which seemed to me somehow especially appropriate given our turbulent geopolitical era.

I'll end with a short update from **Jenn Ryan,** who with her husband, **Pat Ryan SEAS'89,** visited with **Patrick Murray** (Chicago based) and his son recently. They're all gearing up for our 35th reunion and are super excited about gathering.

1990

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Ariel Kronman's "daughter Ella SEAS'27 graduated from Hunter College H.S. in June and is now the pride of our pride. With the 30–0 win over Georgetown, it seems all our Lions are off to a good start."

John Matthews GSAS'97 and his wife, Rachel Bronson GSAS'97, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in September. They met while Ph.D. students at Columbia; he earned a degree in political science. They have lived in Chicago for more than 15 years, after moving there from New York, and have two daughters, one a recent Rice University graduate and the other a senior in high school. John commutes to his job running strategy and commercial at Eastman Chemical Co. in Tennessee and Rachel is the CEO of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.*

Matt Pollard checked in from Singapore to proudly announce that his son Declan graduated from Jesus College in the University of Cambridge in 2023 and is now in his first year at Harvard Law.

More from **Rick Minnich.** You might recall from the Fall 2023 column that Rick was in Ukraine in July to film the team of the Berlin-based humanitarian aid organization Berlin Odessa Express as it hand delivered a shipment of medical supplies, wheelchairs, generators and hygiene articles to local aid organizations in Odessa. Rick and the team managed to get in and out of Odessa between Russian attacks and produced this short video: bit.ly/40JsPVs. Rick says it was an exhilarating experience. Ukrainians are warm-hearted people who are very grateful for all the support coming to them from around the world.

From **Adam Levitt:** "July 13, 2023, was a landmark night in my firm's short but explosive history. After being nominated for an unprecedented 10 awards by the American Lawyer Media/*National Law Journal* earlier this year, that night, DiCello Levitt was honored to win five major awards — more than any other law firm — at the ALM/*National Law Journal* Elite Trial Lawyers awards dinner in New York City. In recognition of our firm's exemplary and cutting-edge work on behalf of plaintiffs, we were named Plaintiffs Law Firm of the Year, and we were also awarded firm of the year in the environmental, privacy/data breach and trial strategy innovation categories — an unprecedented and unmatched record. We believe that these resounding and meaningful wins, across so many significant award categories, reflect DiCello Levitt's status as one of the nation's premier complex issues and trial firms and our continuing dedication to achieving justice for our clients across a wide range of cases and practice areas."

I had the great pleasure to catch up with a few classmates in October at my younger daughter's bat mitzvah in Chevy Chase, Md. **Robin Wald SEAS'90, Joel Tranter, Sharon Rogers, Laura Marks** and **German Gomez** attended the joyous event and, as always, it was wonderful to catch up with this crowd.

I'm sad to report the death of **Ljiljana Stanojevic SEAS'90** on August 26, 2023. A link to her obituary can be found on the Columbia College Class of 1990 Facebook page and is a masterpiece of writing. Even in death, she will make you laugh and remember her vividly.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
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Greetings, classmates! Happy New Year!

Yours truly, **Heather Brownlie,** welcomed a fifth grandchild, granddaughter Mila Rose Smith, on August 3.

Daryl Colden was part of a mini-CC'91 reunion of sorts at Colby College in Maine. "Four of us got together on the occasion of three of us having girls attending college together": **Darren Finestone,** who works in finance and lives in Los Angeles; **Daryl Colden,** an ENT who lives in Newburyport, Mass.; **George Takoudes,** a healthcare architect who lives in Boston; and **Andrew Stone,** a GI who lives in Providence, R.I.

CC'91 classmates (left to right) Darren Finestone, Daryl Colden, George Takoudes and Andrew Stone held a mini-reunion in Newburyport, Mass., on September 30. The group celebrated their children being in college, with three of them at Colby College.

Darren adds, "We had a great time reminiscing about Columbia College, including Plex parties, Sammy parties, Hartley Hall, Carman, McBain and great classes, but most importantly, wonderful friendships we made along the way."

See the nearby photo!

Eme Essien, Wendy Staton, Amanda Clarke, Nathalie Augustin, Tia Carter-Jenkins and Cassandra Bowen O'Neal '92 recently assembled in Washington, D.C., at Amanda's home, with attendees coming in from Seattle to Kenya for their annual four-day weekend. Cassandra shared that it was an amazing opportunity to catch up and share stories and fun memories. See the nearby photo!

Elisabeth Porter is a real estate attorney with Popkin & Rosaler, "and am proudly the secretary for the Omni Middle School PTSA in Boca Raton, Fla."

Pamela Skopp Greenwood shared: "We mourn the sudden loss of our friend **Joel D. Wine** LAW'95, who passed away on September 3, 2023. Joel was a devoted son, brother, husband to Debby Wise Wine BC'93, SW'97, and father to three, two of whom were recently married. Joel grew up in Sharon, Mass., and attended Maimonides Day School. At the College, he was very involved with the Jewish community and was an RA. Graduating with a degree in history, he spent a year in Jerusalem at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies. Upon his return to the States, Joel attended the Law School for a J.D. and then Boston University for an L.L.M. For the majority of his professional career, he was a tax attorney, most recently as senior counsel at Meitar. Fulfilling his dream to make Israel his permanent home, the Wine family moved to Modi'in in 2006.

"You might remember Joel as a warm and easygoing guy with a large circle of friends. He was quick-witted and always contributed an incisive or goofy comment to the conversation. A friend encapsulated his spirit beautifully: 'Joel was simply delighted by life and loved the world with all his heart.'"

CASSANDRA BOWEN O'NEAL '92

A dinner party on July 28 at the Washington, D.C., home of Amanda Clarke '91 brought together (left to right) Eme Essein '91, Wendy Staton '91, Cassandra Bowen O'Neal '92, Clarke, Nathalie Augustin '91 and Tia Carter-Jenkins '91.

Reminder to all that Columbia Reunion 2024 is taking place this spring! Even though we are not a milestone year there are still many activities on campus and around New York City for all to enjoy! Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

Please take a moment to send me your latest news and happenings, and I'll share them in a future issue. Looking forward to receiving more news and notes and your amazing photos for the next edition!

1992

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Classmates, I greet you!

Heartiest congratulations to **Rob Carey**! Rob shared that, at 52, he has tied the knot for the first time, to a 51-year-old woman who likewise had never been hitched.

"I always said I wouldn't get married until I was fully mature, but Kelley wasn't willing to wait that long," Rob quipped.

The two got married in her hometown of Milford, Conn., at a waterfront venue that looks across Long Island Sound at Rob's hometown of Kings Park, N.Y.

"Interestingly, we met in 2019 in Peoria, Ariz., where we had both moved for health reasons. We now live in Surprise, Ariz., and had plans to start a family in January, when we will adopt a dog," Rob adds.

My warmest thanks go out to Carrie Kayser-Cochran BC'92, since she's the reason **Quinn Kayser-Cochran** wrote. Quinn is a senior manager at Rise Broadband, "leading the company's tower development and acquisition efforts.

"Carrie and I have two kids doing teen things (academics, sports, activities), and I paint in my spare time (kaysercochranfineart.com; mostly western landscapes and such). I have hundreds of sketches and watercolors made while I travel for work, so I've started rendering these in acrylic paint," Quinn said.

Laura Weinfeld sent a note about visiting **Yael Halaas** (née Ptachewich), who lives with her family in NYC. Laura lives with her family in Miami, where she also lawyers. Yael is a facial plastic surgeon with a main office and operating room in Manhattan and a satellite office in Scarsdale. "We enjoyed reminiscing about our time at Columbia," Laura wrote.

Adam Towvim sent a contribution in the style of Class Notes: "**Adam Towvim** regrets he hasn't written for a while. Covid-19 allowed Adam to take time to rediscover long-distance running again (recently completed his first half marathon in ~20 years). Since he and illustrious classmate **Ashish Jha** live in the same town, Adam sometimes sees Ashish and of course follows all his great work. Adam is a partner at a sales and marketing consulting firm, Chameleon Collective, that he helped start eight years ago. He is an adjunct faculty member at Brandeis University's International Business School. And Adam can't seem to escape the startup addiction: He co-founded and sold a 'data clean room' company, Nth Party, 2019–21."

Nine years ago, **David Weisoly** moved back to Houston, where he went to high school. "We live in the Woodlands, a gigantic master-planned community north of the city," he wrote.

"I am a neonatologist and medical director of one of the largest neonatal and perinatal practices in the country," David wrote. "My life is busy, to say the least. Our practice cares for more than 25,000 births per year and 250-plus NICU babies every day."

David has been married to Jeannie for 28 years and has three kids in college — "I'm thinking I need to crowdfund" — and two dogs, one of which is his fifth West Highland White Terrier.

"Family is healthy and I keep in touch with lots of classmates, but mostly **Mike Shaw.** Also hear frequently from **Steve Antwi** PH'95 (a doctor near me) and **Walter Hutchinson** GSAS'94 (in Budapest); "I'll make it there soon, Walter," David reported.

I also got a first-time submission from **Sandra Thananart**, who is a primary-care physician in Ithaca, where she lives with her husband, Tim Bael, who went to Cornell.

"We love all the outdoor activities Upstate New York has to offer — hiking, skiing, wake surfing on Cayuga Lake," said Sandy.

Scott Prendergast, who lives in Los Angeles, wrote, "I am the creator of *So Help Me Todd,* on CBS. It's a comedic hourlong procedural that all of your parents are watching."

If you thought you detected that the world was suddenly a bit sadder and dumber a few months ago, you were right. We lost **Kimberly Williams-Shuker** in July. May her memory be a blessing. In my case, the memories center on a few long discussions of 1980s pop and alternative music.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

It's definitely not easy to do Class Notes in the era of Facebook. Please keep sending your personal and professional updates, which fuel this column.

Enjoying a New York City bagel and lox reunion on August 19 at Sadelle's New York were Mary Kuo '92, Thongbay Vongpaseuth '92 and Jane Chew '91.

1993

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Well, since we can't have a big reunion special every issue, it's time to get back to the business of living our lives. It was nice to hear from my sophomore roommate **Marc Braveman**, still living in New Mexico and training for ski season. He sent me a video of him wearing skis on a trampoline and practicing the 360-degree helicopter maneuver. The former All-Ivy League diver made it look easy while making me look forward to ski season myself.

Old friend **Nina Hong** LAW'96 also checked in. She was installed as president of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association on October 10. "The celebration was SCCLA's 48th Anniversary Installation and Awards Ceremony, held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles," Nina wrote, "and more than 700 guests, including many judges, attended."

Sounds like an incredible party. Mazel tov, Nina!

Column regular **Chris Wiggins**, *The New York Times'* chief data scientist, was named to *Insider* magazine's list of Top 100 People in Artificial intelligence. He also spoke at Homecoming, giving a talk from his book, *How Data Happened: A History from the Age of Reason to the Age of Algorithms* (college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/winterspring-2023/article/digging-data).

I heard from **Dirk Winter,** who is married with three kids and is a psychiatrist both at Columbia and in private practice. He's also entered the podcast space, aka the fastest-growing media. "I launched Developing Meaning on Apple and other platforms," Dirk said, "in which I interview psychiatrists and other healers about what they have learned from their clinical work about the meaning of life."

I listened to a couple of episodes and it's really quite fascinating. Definitely check it out if you have even the slightest interest in life's big questions.

Greg Lang wrote in about his life and his wife, **Grace Hyun Lang.** "I had a great time at reunion and it was a reminder of what a great class we have, full of interesting people and some of whom we still look forward to meeting," Greg said. He and Grace, who met while living on 13 Jay in 1989 (and in Lit Hum), have been married for 23 years, with two "awesome" kids in high school. "Having lived other places in NYC over the years, we've lived in Morningside Heights for many years now," Greg notes.

Greg and Grace's daughter has coincidentally been on the same Vermont ski team in recent years with **Betsy Gomperz**'s son, and "there is nothing like running into '93ers randomly out in the world," Greg adds. "We keep in touch with Tom Lloyd '94, **John Balestriere** and **Eric Redhead** SEAS'94, and reunion was a great reminder to keep in better touch with other old friends like **Kartik Seshan SEAS'93, Joe Del Toro, Ajay Bhatt, Andy Schmeltz** and many others. Reunion is so great, and I hope even more people show for the next one."

We all hope that, Greg! So if you're reading this and you weren't at the festivities in June, circle the first weekend of June 2028 for the big 3-5.

Another first-timer reached out, this one from Budapest. **Kristi Lemm** lamented that she missed reunion, but celebrated the first time she's offered a *CCT* update in 30 years, which should be a shining beacon of an example to many of you.

Kristi is on a Fulbright fellowship, teaching Hungarian and international students how to write scientific psychology papers, "in English," she stresses. "My husband (a chemist, not a Columbia grad) and I both got Fulbrights and we're having a great time soaking up the local culture and cuisine. I planned to go back to being a psych professor at Western Washington University in January.

"Before we left for Budapest," she continued, "I stopped in San Francisco and caught up with **Arsenio Santos.** He's doing great, living in the Bay Area, married and occasionally touring as the bassist in a heavy metal band."

Another old friend, **Diana Morales-Bories,** wrote in with news that was both lovely and alarming. On the one hand, "My daughter graduated from college and my son graduated from high school, and is now in college in California," she said.

That was the lovely part. Here's where it gets alarming, as Diana continued, "Even better, after 28 years of continual service, I have retired from my corporate in-house counsel role at Carrier Global. I'm taking some time off to travel and relax before I decide on my next chapter."

Okay, plenty of us are now empty-nesters, but one of our classmates is *retiring*? It's enough to make a person feel old!

We kid. This is wonderful news, Diana, and a hearty congratulations on this momentous occasion, as well as lots of luck for whatever comes next. Be sure to share it with us!

Speaking of sharing, I'm going to close this issue with some news of my own. I mentioned empty-nesters, and how many of us are moving on to that next chapter of our lives, but as many of you who were at reunion will know, my wife, Jessica (Dartmouth '03), and I are just starting a big chapter of our own.

Our first child, Riley Hudson Turitz (CC'45), was born August 29 in Western Massachusetts. With apologies to all those of you with children, he is unquestionably the smartest, funniest, cutest, most adorable, most amazing baby who ever lived.

I obviously have a lot of friends with kids — many of yours I know personally — and have plenty of nieces and nephews, but finally having a child of my own has made me understand just how special it is in a way I never could before. Riley's arrival has cracked my heart right open, and he does it over and over again, every single day.

I don't believe this is a hard and fast rule, but generally speaking, I find that when people think of the greatest moment of their life, they tend to think in the past tense, looking back at something and realizing after the fact how special it was. But that sunny Tuesday in late August, at 1:32 p.m., when the nurse put my newborn son into my wife's arms, and the tears were streaming down my face, I found myself thinking, "This is the greatest moment of my entire life."

Fatherhood is amazing. I love every part of it. It's only been a few weeks (as of this writing), but I am very much looking forward to whatever is in store.

And that feels like a good place to end this issue's column. I'm in too good a mood to (jokingly) threaten people to send in their updates, but I will ask nicely that you do so. We want to hear what you're up to! No updates are too small or inconsequential!

Until next time …

1994

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

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What a delight to share *storm-free* news about classmates this time. As evil strikes in the world, surely there are Lions who are tangibly affected by violence and war. That says nothing about the rage gripping our hearts in response to wickedness that we in the west have not touched on our lifetimes. However, the thread that keeps us emotionally stitched together can be humorous, heartfelt and authentic support from our friend groups. In many cases, CC'94s wrote about those with whom they keep up regularly.

Allison Chang shares a sunny message from the Aloha State, the place where she spends 40 percent of her time while the other 60 is in San Francisco. In California she is VP legal and chief compliance officer for a unified communications as a service (UCaaS) company. She has two sons, aged 16 and 12, and lives a short drive down California I-580 from her dear friend Bernadette Rodriguez '95. Bernadette and her husband have sons in the same age range — 15, 13 and 9. After earning an M.B.A. at Wharton, where she focused on healthcare management, Bern is the national program lead for the Social Health Practice at Kaiser Permanente, working to support patients, members and communities address social factors of health — like the importance of having a friend network, perhaps? Rounding out this group of pals, **Shari Sakuda Fong** writes from Honolulu, where she and her husband are raising their 12-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son. Shari had lived in California and taught third- and sixth-graders for several years. But now that she is in Oahu, she runs a successful dental practice. Luckily for Allison, she has College friends in her corner at both ends of her travel.

Rebecca Weinberg Femia makes it a practice to keep up with hilarious text threads with her former East Campus suitemates, **Eliza Lowen McGraw, Susannah Rosenstock** (see the Fall 2023 issue for an update on Susannah in Toronto), **Rachel DeWoskin** and **Anne Kornblut.** This group of friends keeps the support going from far-flung areas. For example, Rebecca makes her present home in her hometown of Philadelphia. She is raising two daughters, Eva and Talia, and a son, Ronan. Meanwhile, Anne writes in from the Bay area, where she is at Meta as VP of product content operations, working on the challenge of quality content. Anne finds herself in the amusing position of recommending Columbia to the many teens she encounters. Amusing because we are too young for this, right?

I reached out to **Kemba Dunham,** and she answered the phone while in the middle of discussing college applications with her son, Nile. Kemba is a CC friend of mine, but we also went to high school together in Summit, N.J. Talking about her high school senior son she says, "He is looking at schools all over the United States; his sister goes to American University and loves it." Kemba worked at the College Board a few years back and knows a thing or two about the workings of testing and AP exams. She is often in touch with a host of CC'94 classmates, which she "uses as a selling point" whenever someone expresses interest in Columbia.

After earning an M.B.A. at the University of Texas at Austin, **Alex Hart** (née Hankin) moved to Seattle 20 years ago to work for Microsoft. She is still besties with **Leticia Tomas Bustillos;** they even made good on their sophomore-year pact to go to Paris for their 40th birthdays. They get together frequently in Seattle, as Letty has been working for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, helping minority-serving colleges from her home in D.C. Alex stays in touch with Isaiah Delemar '93 and gets together for epic dinners with Joe Vona SEAS'95, BUS'00 when she returns home to NYC. In 2010, Alex and her husband, Bryan, adopted two brothers from Ethiopia, now 13 and 16. She says she is inexplicably a stay-at-home mom and finds sanity volunteering for PTAs and Booster Clubs and being a TA for a class that teaches refugees and immigrants how to find jobs in the United States. After finding much success baking for the discriminating tastes of elementary schoolers, Alex embarked on a journey to create recipes for upscale comfort foods. *YUM!* In between whines of "Mom, I want …" she is working on launching a food blog, Posh Comfort Cuisine.

Aaron Katzel looks forward to catching up with everyone at our 30th reunion. He, his wife, Jacquie, and his sons, Charles (10) and Henry (7), moved to the San Francisco Bay Area four years ago after spending most of the previous 20 years in NYC. While in NYC, Aaron could be seen from time to time reminiscing about Columbia and discussing legal, insurance and climate topics with Steve Weinstein '91 and venture capital and growth equity investments with Manu Rana '92. Since moving to California, Aaron's Columbia friend group has included **Melissa Lawton, Anne Kornblut, Ben Jealous, Alex Metzger** and **Ritu Mukerji,** and of course, his sister Shana Dowell '98; brother-in-law Jon Dowell '92; and sisters-in-law Debbie Dowell '90, VPS'96 and Chris Bernstein '90. Aaron's career during the last 25 years has involved roles across the legal industry, including working with clients as a private practitioner in NYC, Frankfurt and Paris; serving as deputy general counsel in NYC during the height of the 2008 financial crisis; and most recently building and leading teams as the legal and compliance chief operating officer for global insurers and investment managers. During his free time, Aaron enjoys exploring the coasts, woods and mountains of Northern California with Jacquie and his boys and reading history and fiction. He says is looking forward to reading the recently published **Ritu Mukerji** mystery.

When we imagined ourselves years out of college, likely we hoped to have lifelong friends. That doesn't happen for everyone, but happily, for many it has. And for those of you who have college-age/near–college-age kids, "making friends" is a wish expressed by every applicant to any university. I hope you can reflect fondly on at least one peer relationship from Columbia that enriches your life. Your chance to thank that person, laugh, catch up, be awkward and walk down Broadway will be this spring. Thirtieth reunion, here we come!

1995

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Congratulations to Brooklyn-based artist **Mala Iqba** for her work and recognition as 2023 recipient of the Joan Mitchell Fellowship. The grant is awarded to 15 artists from across the United States to honor the abstract artist and gives an unrestricted $60,000 over five years alongside professional development and convenings that facilitate community building and peer learning.

Mala has created a series of paintings and drawings that are a visual representation of the recollections of family stories. She plans to use the fellowship to delve deeper into these stories — with research travel to relatives across the U.S., as well as in Lahore, Karachi, and Osnabruck — while being able to expand the time invested in other projects such as printmaking and painting collaborations.

Jeffrey Bellin published the book *Mass Incarceration Nation: How the United States Became Addicted to Prisons and Jails and How it Can Recover.* He's been a professor at William & Mary Law for the last decade.

Finally, I met up with **Christophe Knox** in Paris while on a family trip there in June. The last time I'd seen him was days after my husband and I got engaged in Paris.

I'm turning over the column to him here, with the hope that it will inspire others to send in updates about what they've been up to since we left Morningside Heights.

"I've been living and working in Paris since finishing grad school in 1999. That means everything from teaching English in shoe stores to creative directing for Apple by way of development *enfer.* Hat tip to former indoor soccer'er and former rue des Martyrs neighbor Timothée Verrecchia '96 for rolling the dice on me more than once. I see Nicolas Kelemen '94 regularly, as he moved here (and onto my couch) at approximately the same time I did. I've been mostly terrible about keeping in touch with folks. Largely because there are enough people passing through Paris — like my brother (CC'92), Peter Hatch '92, Josh Levy '94, Karen Sendler '94, Francesca Contiguglia '94, Viking Feasters Rob Wendt, **Jim Crimmins** and **Josh O'Connor**, but also **Sabine Louissaint** and **Malik Ducard** (in Cannes, as a couple of CTV flunkies should) — on a regular basis to keep the guilt from ever reaching levels where I might act like a proper friend.

"I live with my family in a Fox News no-go zone, but regularly head to the Rive Gauche and Reid Hall, aka Columbia Global Centers | Paris, to hang out with alums from all walks of life, current students who are smarter and more well read at 20 than I'll ever be and passing-through professors from back in the day, like Peter Awn (RIP). And of course, Janet, twice for coffee ... a mere 20 years apart."

1996

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Greetings, classmates!

Some exciting book news to report this time around. I attended an event at the 92nd Street Y to celebrate the publication of **Klancy Miller**'s new book, *For the Culture: Phenomenal Black Women and Femmes in Food – Interviews, Inspiration, and Recipes.* Klancy was interviewed by culinary star Alison Roman; it was an inspiring and fun evening, made all the better by running into **Rose Kob** and Jia Song BC'00.

Shoutout to Klancy! I love her book, and you should all check it out!

Franklin Foer also recently had a book event, his in Brooklyn, to celebrate his new book, *The Last Politician: Inside Joe Biden's White House and the Struggle for America's Future,* which tells the inside story of the first two years of the Biden presidency through exclusive access to Biden's longtime team of advisors. Frankie was interviewed by noted journalist and author **Jodi Kantor.**

Alas, these are the only notes I have. Please send in more and keep our column robust with news of your lives. I want to hear from you! I leave you with this:

"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean. If a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty."

— *Mahatma Gandhi*

1997

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Dear classmates, I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful winter holiday season. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

Naveena Ponnusamy writes: "I live in Los Angeles and recently traveled to India. While there spent time with several College alumni. Margaret Conley '98 joined me on the trip, traveling from San Francisco to meet me in South India. We also visited Mumbai, where we caught up with **Ipsita Dasgupta.** We reminisced about Club Zamana while meeting her two adorable daughters. We finished our trip in Delhi and had a wonderful time seeing Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93, the the United States Ambassador to the Republic of India. It was fun to talk United States-India relations and swap stories about campus, NYC and L.A. Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo!

Sarah Katz writes: "In my ongoing role as a clinical professor of law at Temple University, I was awarded a senior fellowship with the Stoneleigh Foundation, which will allow me to pursue research, writing and curriculum development around racial justice for families involved with the child protection system (bit.ly/3sNlwzm)."

Edward Yaeger writes: "Greetings from Harlem! I think this is my second-ever alumni update, perhaps even my first? Or maybe it's my third? During the Covid-19 pandemic, I completed a master's — my third and (final?!) one — in mental health counseling from Northwestern. Unlike my M.B.A. from NYU and my M.P.A. from Harvard, this degree was not subsidized by an employer, so, while it was worth the mid-career switch to become a now-fully licensed, private practitioner, the various associated costs — monetary and otherwise — did not go unfelt. Last May, I completed my 3,000 supervised clinical hours; in June I passed the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination national board exam; in August I received New York State licensure; and in September I launched my own practice, Yaeger Group, which is already at near-full roster capacity (probably saying more about the great demand, and grave need, for mental health services than anything about my own skills or acumen). Despite the sometimes-daunting licensing requirements, I've managed to maintain social media connections among, and even spend time 'IRL' with, a host of fellow Columbia graduates, most of whom seem to be doing generally well as we creep into middle age, ugh. On that note I will impart to those of you who are reading this the following 'gift': 2023 was to 1980 as 1980 is to 1937!"

Nathaniel Mayfield has mostly overcome nine surgeries on his feet, hiking around Montblanc last summer with his wife, Ulrike, and their children, Elizabeth, Charlotte and Rebecca. He was even joined by Alex Tween '98 for a couple of those days near Courmayeur, Italy. Nathaniel lives in Austin, and helps his family run 13 Mayfield Dairy Queens, as well as operates two oil wells in Texas. He still manages to play trumpet from time to time, and recently played a Red Mass in Austin attended by Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett. Additionally, he owns a small ranch in South Texas where he is raising bison, axis deer and other exotic game.

Amanda Pong PH'10 writes: "I continue my pediatric epilepsy work at the independent think tank Mid-Atlantic Epilepsy & Sleep Center, investigating new clinical drugs for refractory and rare epilepsies. Following the recent publication of my book, *Finding Payton: An Odyssey Towards Seizure Freedom in Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome,* I will moderate the Symposium on Clinical Trials and

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

NEWS

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

Research at the world's largest gathering of epilepsy professionals and patient families, to be held in California, all as part of my efforts to combat medical disparity among people with epilepsy. I live in Bethesda, Md., with my husband and children and am maintained by my violin playing."

Rebekah Gee PH'98 writes: "I started a company, Nest Health, that provides primary care and social support to lower-income families with children at home and was featured on *60 Minutes* for Nest's work to support mothers. **Athena Ole** and I get together frequently in New Orleans at Jazz Fest and other times of year. David, my husband, and I still live in New Orleans with our identical twin girls (10). Life is great, and I am happy to be doing work that helps others."

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell,** as I sit here wrapping up this column, it is mid-October and I am looking forward to Halloween, which is always a big event in our town (Celebration, Fla.). My 6-year-old daughter, who is doing great in the first grade, wants to be a werewolf this year, and in addition to trick-or-treating we will have a chute to send candy down from our second-floor balcony in our downtown condo.

I hope you are all doing well, and please write with your updates. We would love to hear from you, even if it is just to say hello.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

No news this time.

1999

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Lauren Gershell
lauren@gershell.com

Hello Class of '99 and Happy 2024, our 25th reunion year! I hope everyone is doing well, and I am thrilled to have the following updates from classmates. Please keep sharing your news, and I look forward to seeing everyone at reunion in May.

Nan Wilcke LAW'03 has moved with her family from Nairobi, where she was heading up M&A for the Allianz Group's African operations, to Munich. In June she left the Allianz Group after 13 years to co-found an insurance startup, based in Zurich, to insure carbon credits. Nan told me that "the startup world is a huge change after 20 years in institutional environments, but I'm enjoying myself immensely and it's a super interesting space to be in right now. I'd love to hear from anyone working in the industry (nandini@carbonpool.earth). My husband and our two boys, 11 and 15, are doing great and enjoy being back in Germany. Hope everyone is doing well!"

Rebecca Sheir is in her seventh season of hosting Circle Round, the award-winning children's podcast from WBUR (Boston's NPR station). She's written four picture books inspired by the podcast (college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/winterspring-2023/article/rebecca-sheir-99). She says she's excited to take Circle Round on the road in 2024, with live, on-stage recordings in Seattle, Portland, Chicago, San Francisco and Minneapolis!

2000

Kavita Shah Bafana
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Hello, fellow Lions from the Class of 2000! Time has flown. It's been more than two decades since we were attending classes, pulling all-nighters and cheering for our teams at Columbia. As we've ventured on to different paths, our connection to alma mater remains strong. Here are some updates from classmates.

Dentist **Neal Kravitz,** who earned a D.M.D. and an M.S., has achieved significant accomplishments in his field. Now a clinical professor at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Neal recently received the 2024 John Valentine Mershon Award from the American Association of Orthodontists, adding yet another milestone to his illustrious career.

Congratulations to Neal on this solid achievement!

Charles Ayres, who writes under the pen name Charles St. Anthony, has won acclaim for his unique storytelling style, drawing from his experiences in food delivery. His recent book, *Meet Me in Miami: 1,000 Deliveries in the Magic City,* which focuses on Miami's culinary and cultural scene, is a hit on Amazon. Make sure to get your copy if you are visiting Miami, or just because!

NICOLE SACKLEY

Eric Yellin '00 (left) and Tom King '00 were at the opening of the Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum on May 21 in Washington, D.C.

Allison Arch and **Sam Sewall** have journeyed from Columbia to the West Coast, nurturing their love and celebrating 20 years of marriage. They live in Los Angeles, where Allison is a neurologist and Sam works for CBS, with their two children.

Congratulations!

Eric Yellin has contributed his expertise as a visiting curator to the Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., ensuring that it is an inclusive beacon of culture, history and heritage. See the nearby photo.

Lindi Vanderwalde is making her mark as a breast cancer surgeon in Memphis. Additionally, she is a proud mom of a high schooler ready to launch into his own college journey. She fondly recalls her Columbia days, even down to her Columbia-branded socks.

Jenny Fan Raj sends greetings from San Francisco, where she's juggling multiple roles. She is on the boards of Bay Area nonprofit Youth Speaks and Stanford-based nonprofit Challenge Success. Jenny has also joined Columbia's Fund Development Council and its Alumnae Legacy Circle. She says she can't wait to connect with CC peers when she is visiting NYC.

Our paths might have diverged, but they are forever linked by the memories, values and lessons we gained at Columbia. Whether in academia, the arts or in personal triumphs, our stories reflect the resilience, ambition and sense of community that Columbia instilled in us.

To those yet to share, your story is a valuable chapter in this ongoing narrative. Let's keep the Columbia spirit alive, and may our journeys always lead us back to the shared experiences of our College days.

Until our next update, cherish each moment, seize every opportunity and never forget our common legacy.

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Vanessa Hutchinson-Szekely reached out with big news: After 20-plus years in education, she launched her own business: Big Belly Breathing, an audio program/podcast with guided meditations for kids 8–12 in both French and English. Follow her on IG @bigbellybreathing for more info, and subscribe!

Mary Herrington (née Lee) wrote with a belated update that was further delayed by me (apologies for that, Mary): "In July 2022, after nine years in Brooklyn Heights, my family and I moved north of the city to Chappaqua, just a stone's throw from the Clintons. We love this woodsy, bucolic, sleepy town, and my kids, Margot (10) and Lee (8), are now acclimated and happy. I'm thrilled that one of my new friends and fellow Chappaqua mom is Lauren Shawn '03 (née Kornreich) who lives with her husband, Brett Shawn '03, and their two boys. Their close buddy also happens to be Max Mayer-Cesiano '03, my friend from Penn Law. Since fall 2021, I have worked at Yale Law, where I'm the executive director of the Michael S. and Alexa B. Chae Initiative in Private Sector Leadership and co-lead The Tsai Leadership Program. The commute is certainly easier now! Any other CC alumni living in northern Westchester, please reach out!"

Brian Lucero writes, "I passed a couple of life milestones in the last year. In October, I celebrated my 20th wedding anniversary. **Jennifer Garcia, Rachal Rojas, Lucia Martinez SEAS'01** and **Jorge Herrera** were at the wedding in New Mexico and we all keep in touch and visit each other. In fact, I vacationed with Jen and her husband in Mexico City for New Year's and planned to visit Rachal in Houston this past fall.

"I lived in New Mexico for 10 years while I worked on a Ph.D. in history at the University of New Mexico. I specialized in the history of the U.S. West and U.S./Mexico Borderlands. I intended to become a history professor, but life's turns led me elsewhere. In 2012, my wife got accepted to a doctoral program at Teachers College so we moved back to Morningside Heights.

"I was fortunate to be hired at the Columbia University Libraries while finishing my dissertation. I got to keep my UNI! In January, I marked 11 years working for CUL. I am the digital projects librarian. In that role, I help librarians and faculty build digital collections and exhibitions from Columbia's marvelous archives. You can see most of them here: library.columbia.edu/collections/digital-collections.html. Every time I go to my office in Butler, I think about my days shelving books there as a work-study employee. I still feel a thrill walking under the names of the great philosophers and storytellers to enter the building just like I did as an undergrad.

"During the last couple of years, it has been my pleasure to teach classes at Columbia's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. It is truly invigorating to sit down with a roomful of Columbia students and talk through big ideas. Teaching provides me another satisfying way to give back to Columbia."

Speaking of **Jorge Herrera**, he also reached out: "I have been doing well as president of The Herrera Law Firm, where we specialize in personal injury and wrongful death litigation, and I have expanded as well as the founder of Herrera Mobility Enterprises, which serves as a Tier One Supplier for Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Texas, Arizona and Mexico. My kids are growing too fast and we started college tours this past fall. I have a son who is a junior, a daughter who started her freshman year and a little one in fifth grade. Each week and weekend is filled with soccer, basketball or cross country, but I wouldn't have it any other way. I hope to get to a CU reunion soon. I wish everyone the absolute best!"

Finally, my column wouldn't be complete without mentioning something related to **Dina Epstein** TC'05! She recently hosted several alums, including **Annie Marquit** LAW'06 (née Lainer); my wife, Jamie Rubin BC'01; Rebecca Lurie (née Cole) BC'01; Nate Lesser SEAS'00, SEAS'05; Chani Bloom; and Ben Adler '97 for the bar mitzvah of Dina's eldest son, Ezra Levisohn. Dina and her husband, Eitan, were incredible hosts and an incredible time was had by all in D.C.

Mazel tov to Ezra and the Epsteins and Levisohns!

I hope everyone stays well and in touch. Would love to hear from all of you.

SUBMIT A JUST MARRIED! PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least one College alum, as long as a member of the couple.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

2002

Sonia Hirdaramani
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Hannah Selinger is a freelance lifestyle writer and mother of two based in Boxford, Mass. In 2022, she was a James Beard finalist for the MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award for her 2020 longform Eater essay "Life Was Not a Peach," about her experiences working for notable chef David Chang in the mid-2000s. Also in 2022, her 2021 *Bon Appétit* essay "In My Childhood Kitchen, I Learned Both Fear and Love" was anthologized in the HarperCollins Best American Food Writing Collection. Hannah recently sold a memoir about her years as a sommelier in high-profile New York kitchens, and it's set for a 2025 release. She currently writes for *Travel + Leisure, Food & Wine, The New York Times, The New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal* and others.

2003

Michael J. Novielli
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I'm happy to share a few exciting updates from classmates:

After many years at the CIA, **Avery Alpha** was recently appointed principal deputy undersecretary for intelligence and analysis for the Department of Homeland Security.

Katori Hall writes, "I am embarking on Season 2 of my tv show *P-Valley,* on STARZ, and celebrating 12 Tony nominations for *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical,* both as a co-producer and a book writer."

Michael Wolf is CEO of ResortPass, which "offers day access to luxury hotel amenities, empowering people to experience crystalline pools, private beaches, deluxe spas, top fitness facilities and more at leading hotels in their own neighborhoods. ResortPass partners with more than 900 leading hotels and resorts including Ritz-Carlton, Four Seasons, Westin and Fairmont."

Winston Song is a partner with PAI Partners, a private equity firm in New York, and leads its consumer activities in North America.

Simma Kupchan writes, "I was very sorry to miss reunion due to conflicts with my daughters' elementary school graduation celebrations, but during the weekend that you all were partying, **Dana Hopp Peritz** and I enjoyed our own brief Carman 5 20-year reunion at the Rosemary Hills Elementary School end-of-year picnic, in Silver Spring, Md. Rest assured, however, that Morningside Heights' finest cuisine could not hold a candle to waiting in a 40-minute line to spend $8 on a leaky cone of phosphorescent magenta shaved ice."

2004

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Jaydip Mahida
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Dan de Roulet and **Julia de Roulet** moved back to Long Island from San Francisco with three children in tow. Dan started a biotech company, Mitokinin, which was recently acquired by AbbVie, and Julia is a marriage and family therapist. "We are so glad to be back in New York!" they said.

John Jay 14 neighbors **Andrew Kornbluth** and **Elizabeth McKenna Sikorski** enjoyed a stroll down memory lane, and Seventh Avenue, in October after it turned out that they were attending meetings on either side of Times Square. They did take a selfie.

Gideon Fink Shapiro started a job as marketing director for MBB Architects, a women-owned architecture and design firm doing amazing work in NYC and beyond. He lives in Brooklyn with Rebecca Jacobs '05 and two kids.

Alex Young was promoted to associate teaching professor at Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University, where he teaches courses in U.S. literature and culture in addition to "The Human Event," a Lit Hum-like introductory course. He and his wife, Katie Davis-Young, welcomed their second daughter, Ruby Young, to the world in January 2023.

Sue Altman was featured in *The New York Times,* with the paper calling her the "probable Democratic challenger to [Republican Tom] Kean Jr." for the Congressional race to flip New Jersey's 7th District. The swing district is a tossup and will be likely one of the higher-profile House races in the country this year.

That's all for this issue! Please continue to send updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always great, but please share fun anecdotes, memories or any updates!

2005

Sallie Touma
sallie@salliemathtutor.com

Hi, Class of 2005. We have several new baby announcements! Congratulations to all!

Claire Tamarkin Snyder shares, "In March, I gave birth to my first baby, a little girl named Ripley in honor of the trailblazing, tuchus-kicking heroine of *Alien* :D. To be closer to home and to her, I'm moving on from my teaching job of 12 years in Newark to teach seventh- and eighth-grade English language arts in my hometown of Teaneck, N.J., in our local charter school."

Peter Kang writes, "**Melanie Lee** and **Peter Kang** welcomed their third child, Alexander 'Xander' Kang-Lee, in September. Xander joins brothers Grant and Teddy. The family also moved out of Brooklyn in late summer and live in the Hudson Valley."

Aoife Keane Baynes writes, "Aoife and her husband, Paul, welcomed Layla Baynes to the family in August, joining brothers Miles and Blake."

In other news, **Katya Apekina** shares, "My second novel, *Mother Doll,* is coming out on March 12 with Abrams/Overlook Press. I interned at Overlook as an undergrad. Hard to believe my luck that the place where I answered phones and worked the reception desk is now publishing my book!"

As for me, jazz added ambience to fall with a residence of Jazz at Lincoln Center at the Tilles Center for Performing Arts on Long Island.

If you're in NYC or on Long Island, please reach out at 516-368-6001 for a cup of coffee!

2006

Andrew Stinger
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With the new year underway, it's a privilege to share some of the latest updates from the members of the Class of 2006.

Emily Doherty-Torstrick Ph.D. sends her best wishes from Vermont, where she permanently settled shortly before welcoming her twin girls, Lana and Elvira, who are almost 2. They join their brothers, Liam (6) and Gabriel (4).

David Simons also shares news of an expanding family. In August, David married his husband, Li Zhou SIPA'15, in a small civil ceremony in New York City.

Wrapping up this season's updates, **Andrew Liebowitz** shares: "I had a great 2023, featuring visits with **Eric LeSueur, Mike Jan** and their families. Family vacations featured visits to relatives in Washington, South Carolina and Vermont. I also celebrated 11 years of marriage and continue to play piano and ukulele, and read as much as possible."

Finally, it is with great sadness that I share the passing of our esteemed classmate, renowned activist **Ady Barkan,** who passed from complications from ALS in November, leaving behind a legacy of persistent, courageous advocacy.

Ady gained prominence as a dedicated lawyer and activist at the Center for Popular Democracy, spearheading a grassroots movement to bring about significant reforms within the Federal Reserve. Despite his ALS diagnosis, Ady's impact only grew, fueled by his heartfelt and widely shared video message to his son, Carl, and his relentless commitment to holding politicians accountable across all levels of government.

A fervent advocate for comprehensive healthcare reforms in the United States, Ady was a keynote speaker at the 2020 Democratic National Convention. His autobiography, *Eyes to the Wind: A Memoir of Love and Death, Hope and Resistance,* was published in 2019, and his life and work were the focus of the 2021 documentary *Not Going Quietly.*

Ady leaves behind his son; daughter, Willow; and wife, **Rachael Scarborough King.** For more on his life and achievements, please refer to this issue's Obituaries section, found at college.columbia.edu/cct. May his memory continue to inspire positive change and enduring hope.

I'll reach out again in a few months via email, but if you have any news you'd like to share with our incredible classmates, please don't hesitate to send me a note any time at andrew.stinger@gmail.com.

I send my very warmest wishes for the New Year to my incredible peers in the Class of 2006.

Elizabeth Miller '07 and Jon Miller '07 posed on August 18 in front of their New Rochelle, N.Y., home.

2007

David Donner Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I hope everyone is doing well, and thank you to everyone who shared updates.

Andrew Russeth writes, "After three years living in and loving Seoul, where we moved for my wife Lauretta's job with *The New York Times,* we're returning to New York in early 2024, with a new member of the family, Alice Stephanie Russeth, who was born in September. Hope to see people out and about!"

Riddhi Sohan Dasgupta addressed world leaders gathered at the British Parliament. His lecture, "The Free World Stands Together," concerned critical questions of national security, international trade and the rule of law.

Erik Lindman shares, "'Helian,' my exhibition of recent abstract paintings and sculptures dedicated to Austrian poet Georg Trakl, was on view at Peter Blum Gallery, New York, November 17, 2023–January 20, 2024."

Kapil Dev Verma left his plastic surgery private practice during Covid-19, met his now-husband, John Randolph Pelzer Jr., and works in the Division of Dermatology at the FDA. He says he enjoys working from home and married life! See a photo online in "Just Married!" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Maxwell Foxman JRN'18 writes, "I published my first book, written with David B. Nieborg, on September 26. *Mainstreaming and Game Journalism* is available through MIT Press for free as an open access PDF: bit.ly/40OsOzG. The book grapples with the thorny question of why games are still niche and not mainstream, and how journalism can help them gain cultural credibility."

Andy Wolfe shares, "This past year has been full of learning, growth and connection — by December, I'd spent three months on retreat (mostly silent Buddhist meditation), resting, discovering and letting go of patterns that no longer serve and enjoying being alive. I announced Sati Leadership Coaching, which combines mindfulness meditation, relational and somatic psychology, self-care, entrepreneurship, plant wisdom, creativity and play to help individuals and partners cultivate well-being and success via sati.eco."

2008

Bradley Blackburn
blb2104@columbia.edu

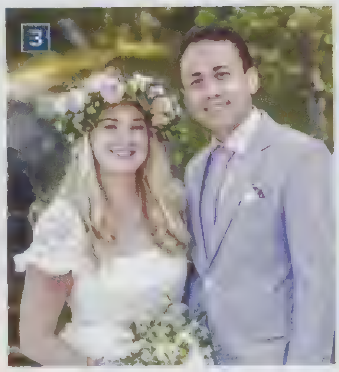
Thanks for sharing your news and notes, CC'08!

Gilma Avalos is now a weekday anchor at WNBC-TV, NBC's flagship television station in New York.

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo**. Congratulations!

TIM YUN, EIN PHOTOGRAPHY AND DESIGN



HANNA KEISER

LAUREN DAUTEL PHOTOGRAPHY

BEN ALLEN OF HUDVALLEY PHOTO

1. Ian James Milheim and Justine Hope '17 married on April 16, 2022, in Iceland.

2. Bride Rebecca Fattell '14 was joined on August 19 at NYC's Bryant Park Grill by Daniel DuComb BUS'24, Ludovica Brais '14, AJ Luzarraga '13, Ram Narayan SEAS'14, Katia Sherman '13, Sophia Kitlinski '14, Sarita Patankar '14, Nim Gumaste '14, Yaas Bigdeli SEAS'14, Nicole Bleuel SEAS'14, Avery Burrell '14, Kavita Jain-Patey SEAS'14 and Matthew Jain-Patey SEAS'14.

3 Lisa Combs '15 and Damien Chang SEAS'16 were married on July 10 in Östergötland, Sweden.

4. Gordon Peterson and Brynn Harris '17 were married in Houston on November 25.

5. Lydia Blaisdell Brunner '09 and David Iscoe '09 at their July 1 wedding in Harkness Chapel, New London, Conn.

She anchors the 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. newscasts. Gilma joined WNBC in 2019 as a weekend evening anchor.

Kibby McMahon and **Alex Greer** effectively recreated the plot of *When Harry Met Sally* .... After 17 years of friendship, they decided to get romantic! They made up for lost time by moving through the relationship stages as quickly as possible: tying the knot in July 2022, and then welcoming their son, Jackson Li Gordon Greer, into the world the following month. See the nearby photo!

Kibby and Alex are keeping busy in their new home on the Upper West Side. Kibby is capitalizing on her psychology Ph.D. by building a company that leverages mental health and artificial intelligence to help startup co-founders navigate the interpersonal difficulties of growing a business. Alex is an associate attorney at Latham & Watkins. They say Jackson is toddling around the apartment, dismantling all of the childproofing and squishing bananas into the floor.

Natali Segovia is executive director of the Water Protector Legal Collective, an Indigenous-led legal nonprofit that grew out of the #NoDAPL movement at Standing Rock, N.D. Today, it continues to provide legal support and advocacy for Indigenous Peoples, the earth and climate justice movements across the United States as well as internationally. As a litigator and international human rights attorney, Natali's current work focuses on the protection of the earth and defense of Indigenous Peoples and human rights defenders facing repression for their resistance work and activism protecting the water and ancestral homelands.

Calvin Sun writes from Manhattan: "Celebrating a year since publishing my first book, the memoir *The Monsoon Diaries*. Also recently finished a week traveling in Syria, having led the largest group of Americans to ever visit the country since the Civil War, as well as looking forward to another year of travels to more 20 countries this year. Looking forward to having more Columbia alumni join us on our travels!"

2009

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Shira Burton
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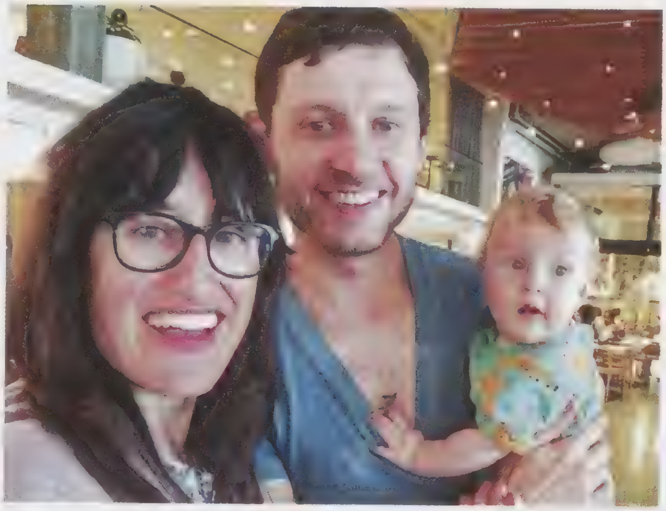
Hello, Class of 2009! This time I have updates from around the world, as well as one of my own. But first, a reminder that our 15-year reunion is this May! How did that happen? Keep an eye out for Alumni Office emails and mailers about the festivities. Hope you can make it!

Jenny Lam was named one of 2023's Culture Shifters by HuffPost. As part of its annual list of changemakers, she was profiled in a feature article, "Jenny Lam Turned Down Disney At Age 8 — And Carved Her Own Path As An Artist" (bit.ly/3SKAjp7; the headline made her burst into laughter out of embarrassment, and in the interview she shouted out Postcrypt, the gallery she ran in the basement of St. Paul's back in the day). She also showcased her art last year in exhibitions in Italy, Korea and sweet home Chicago, including a solo show at Harold Washington Library.

Jenny has also been influencing the next generation; "SLAYSIAN" — the exhibition she curated celebrating Chicago and the surrounding Midwest area's Asian-American artists — was the subject of a Grinnell College student's undergraduate thesis in 2022, and this past fall she was a guest speaker at the University of Illinois Chicago. Most recently, Jenny launched a zine, Laminator. If you're an artist, poet or writer, she encourages you to submit your work for publication!

Ralph DeBernardo and Kaitlyn DeBernardo (née Busler) '10 enjoyed a monthlong excursion to escape the Austin heat at the New Jersey shore in Kaitlyn's hometown. Ralph writes, "We had many visitors from the CU family, and had mini-reunions with some of our football and field hockey/lacrosse teammates. It was a fun trip reuniting with everyone, and also having so many of our future little Lion kids meet each other! We saw **Gene Kaskiw** and Dr. Erin Conway Kaskiw '11; Matt Bashaw '10; **Jackie Hovde** (née Klatsky) and her husband, former CU men's assistant basketball coach Kevin Hovde; Frances Callaghan '10; Megan Donovan '10; Jane Gartland '10; and Carson Christus '12. In a fun twist of events, we ran into Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame player, and the amazing current Lions women's basketball coach, Megan Griffith '07, right on the beach where we were staying. Lots of laughs and fond memories were shared by all."

Happy news from **Lydia Blaisdell Brunner** and **David Iscoe**, who got married on July 1 in New London, Conn. The wedding was officiated by **Eva Fortes** and attended by many Columbia buddies from all over the globe. See "Just Married!" for a photo!


SHIRA BURTON '09

Shira Burton '09, Andrew Lyubarsky '09 and Burton's daughter, Naomi Specktor, had a Washington, D.C., meetup at La Cosecha on August 12.

ALEX GREER '08

Kibby McMahon '08 (left) and Alex Greer '08 had a fun day at the Hippo Playground in Riverside Park on August 22.

Daniel Duzdevich GSAS'17 writes, "I'm still living that postdoc life! My advisor moved his lab from Boston to Chicago last year, so I schlepped halfway across the country, but found myself moving again just as I was starting to enjoy the new city. Now I'm in the quaint town of Freiburg im Breisgau, in the south of Germany, at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies to write a book. It will be a collection of essays about laboratory spaces, scales of time and space, and the experience of experimentation (to appear in the indeterminate future). Otherwise, still on the faculty job hunt (brutal!). Anyone want to hire an astrobiologist? Otherwise, drop me a line if you're in the Freiburg neighborhood and would like to meet over a local beer."

Rory Donnelly and his wife, Christina Collins (Holy Cross '09) celebrated the birth of their second child, Felix Collins Donnelly, in April.

Finally, my family and I enjoyed visiting Washington, D.C., for a wedding in August and seeing several Columbia friends for the first time in years. It was great to catch up with **Brendan Ballou**, **Andrew Lyubarsky** and his family, and Nathalie Aferiat (née Celcis) BC'09 and her family. I'm hoping our paths will cross more frequently. See the nearby photo!

Please feel free to reach out any time if you have news to share.

2010

Billy Organek
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Hello 2010ers! I hope you had an enjoyable fall and a nice start to winter. This issue we have a few professional updates, including one from yours truly.

Ebele Ifedigbo writes, "I recently launched a consulting business, Ikenga Consulting, which focuses on application strategy and development including college, grad school, fellowship and scholarship applications. We are accepting clients. Please visit our website to learn more and help us spread the word about our services. Much appreciation! I wish everyone the best in your current endeavors."

Jeff Witten BUS'15, LAW'15 writes about his new startup: "I co-founded Sheer Health (available in iOS and Android) that helps individuals and families get the most out of their health insurance. We have built an easy-to-use application that enables you to connect your health insurance in a way equivalent to connecting a bank account to Venmo, and in doing so we take over the full administration of your healthcare and medical billing. We've saved and returned more than $1.5 million to our beta members and would love to have CC folks check it out!"

Congratulations, Ebele and Jeff, and best of luck with your new companies!

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I'm also excited to share that I started a role as an assistant professor of law at CUNY Baruch. If you would have suggested to me five years ago that I would be joining academia, I probably would have laughed — this type of role was far from my mind. But the pandemic prompted some soul searching on my part. A mixture of hard work and good fortune led me to a research fellowship at Harvard Law for the last two years, and more of the same led me here. Now I have a role teaching freshmen and sophomores about business law while I continue my research on bankruptcy law and other topics. I'm incredibly grateful for how things have worked out. The challenge of teaching students gives me newfound appreciation for all the hard work our professors put into teaching us. If anyone is ever interested in sharing their experiences with young students eager to hear about the business world, don't hesitate to reach out!

I hope each of you has a wonderful winter and spring, and I hope to hear from you soon.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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Hey there, Twenty-Eleven! We hope that the winter solstice found you with a warm beverage and as much (or as little) family time as your heart desired. Your class correspondents do not have much to report this time. We are always eager to hear about goings-on in your life, and we can't wait for your updates next time.

Until then, we'll celebrate **Melissa Im-Giuffrida,** who recently graduated from the School of Nursing at UC San Francisco! Melissa works with underserved populations at a community clinic in Oakland as a nurse practitioner fellow. Last summer Melissa and her husband, David, took their 17-month-old daughter, Mera, to New York to see alma mater for the first time! Melissa and her family live in San Francisco, where they enjoy looking at Karl the Fog and taking hikes in the Bay.

Thank you for the update, Melissa!

We're also very excited for **Kerry Morrison** VPS'16 and her husband, Will Whiston, who joyfully welcomed their son, Rory Morrison Whiston, in August. They are now a family of three! Kerry is the craniofacial and pediatric plastic surgery fellow at Boston Children's Hospital and an instructor at Harvard Medical School.

Congrats, Kerry, and thank you for the update!

2012

Pat Blute
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As we step into this new year, I wish everyone a year of peace, health and joy. I'm always inspired by the impactful and meaningful ways our class collaborates to promote fulfillment and achievement.

Sarah Medina Camiscoli has been an inspiring leader as assistant professor of law at Rutgers in Newark and as the co-founder of the Peer Defense Project. She was recently featured on the WOMXN UP! podcast explaining the Peer Defense Project's mission to build legal education, access to technology and community networks so that youth who face injustice can transform the law and build power (bit.ly/40GoUIU).

Very inspired by your work, Sarah!

Congrats are also definitely in order for our Lions who welcomed new family members!

David Morgan recently moved from Vienna to Islamabad for a one-year assignment with the Department of State. He and his wife, Courtney, welcomed their first child, Reagan Eleanor Morgan, in May 2022.

Chuck Roberts and his husband, Tyler Badgley, welcomed their first child, Griffin Stephen Badgley Roberts, on September 15. All involved are healthy, happy and full of love.

So grateful to hear from you every time, and please don't hesitate to update the Class of 2012 with your latest!

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

No news this time.

JIM MCLAUGHLIN

Mohit Jain '16 (left) and Kelly Echavarria '16 became engaged at Lake George, N.Y., on September 3.

2014

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Rebecca Schechter Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our 10-year reunion this spring!

Geetika Rudra JRN'15 published her first book, *Here to Stay: Uncovering South Asian American History.*

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015!

We have three amazing updates from classmates! Take a look.

Alyssa Menz got engaged to Reid Lewis, a fellow Ph.D. student at the Yale School of the Environment, on September 17.

Congratulations!

Charlee Dyroff SOA'20 shared that her debut novel, *Loneliness & Company,* is coming out in May.

And finally, **Lamar Richardson** wrote, "Greetings, 2015! For all of my Broadway lovers, I have two shows up this season as a co-producer: *Merrily We Roll Along* and *The Wiz.* Please contact me if you are interested in house seats!"

As always, classmates want to hear from you!

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

Hi, 2016. The air is cold and classmates have been busy so I'll jump straight to it. If you have or updates about yourself or photos, please write!

From **Sasha DiGiulian:** "Since graduating, I moved to Boulder. I travel frequently for climbing expeditions around the world and have achieved more than a dozen first ascents. I am filming an HBO documentary around my injuries, comebacks and career in the sport, it will come out this year. Last year, I founded a superfood nutrition bar company, SEND Bars; the bars are made with real, whole foods that are locally sourced and do not have preservatives, chemicals or added sugars. I also wrote my first book, *Take the Lead: Hanging On, Letting Go, and Conquering Life's Hardest Climbs.* It hit shelves on September 26! And — I recently got married (bit.ly/3MUBsql)!

"To follow along with my latest adventures, follow me on social at @sashadigiulian, and Send Bars at @sendbars.

"I look forward to returning to campus soon, as well as linking up with the Columbia Rock Climbing Club at The Cliffs at Harlem!"

From **Mohit Jain** and **Kelly Echavarria:** "We met in Lerner Hall during NSOP and had many great memories and mutual friends in college. We have a soft spot for the Starbucks on 114th, where we would talk about economics. A year after graduating, we started dating and recently got engaged at Lake George!" See the nearby photo!

Ankeet Ball graduated from UCLA Law in 2022, passed the California bar and started his legal career as a startup lawyer at the West Coast law firm Fenwick & West in its Santa Monica office. He misses his days of riding the 1 to Columbia at any time he pleased but is otherwise happy to have traded the brutal New York weather for endless sunshine. Last April, Ankeet asked his girlfriend, Brittany Beljak BC'16, to marry him, proposing in her senior-year apartment, steps away from the gates of Barnard and Columbia. Brittany works for the chair and CEO of HBO.

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Justine Hope and Ian James Milheim were married on a foggy black-sand beach at the southernmost tip of Iceland on April 16, 2022, after seven years of enjoying writing, painting, traveling, filming, camping, laughing and living together. Justine is a senior underwriter at Nationwide Life Insurance and Ian is an author/screenwriter. Along with their cats, Prince Myshkin and Arrietty, they reside in Columbus as they contemplate "what next." See "Just Married" for a photo!

Brynn Harris shares: "I got married on November 25! My husband, Gordon, went to USC, but I tried to convince him that NYC > Los Angeles when we visited last summer (and with a Milano sandwich, I think I was pretty successful). Though we both loved the coasts, we're staying in Salt Lake City for now; we were excited for another spectacular ski season." See "Just Married" for a photo!

In November, **Max Fiest** LAW'20 started at the litigation department at Orrick in New York, lateraling from another big firm in the city.

Bianca Guerrero (they/them) is working at Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice, a new CUNY institute that trains and supports social justice organizers and movement leaders across the country to ensure we have a fighting chance against the conservative right. They are also investing a lot of energy into street photography with a series called Public Work, which documents the lives of New York City's working class. In the last few months, Bianca has become a budding fiber artist focused on quilts, as well as an active and enthusiastic member of the NYC Metro Modern Quilters Guild. They are based in Brooklyn Heights.

Marina Chan reflects on her craziest year yet: "Last year started off well, with a Broadway-style dance I choreographed and performed at New York Live Arts, followed by a 10-week TV pilot writing intensive at HB Studio, and a few staged readings I acted in, including at a temple, which got me back in touch with my honorary Jewish roots. Needing a bit of a spring break, I took a road trip to Florida with my parents. The trip was only supposed to be 10 days, but on April 7 — Good Friday — at 1:20 p.m., we got into an almost-fatal car accident on I-4 between Orlando and Daytona Beach, going 70 mph. The trauma ICU was a blur: Both my parents had been admitted, and I was suffering from acute inflammation in my lower back and chest, which made even a hiccup hurt like hell. Another wake-up call on the heels of the pandemic, our car crash forced me to reevaluate everything once again. Putting my career on hold — my never-ending quest to make it to Broadway could and would have to wait — I recovered while caring for both my parents and deeply admiring their doctors and nurses. (Was I in the wrong profession?) It'd be another five and a half months before we could return home, as my mom was still recovering. But during that time, I was able to accept the British American Drama Academy's invite to a Shakespeare acting summer program at Oxford University. It was an intense, but magical, month of training, acting and exploration that allowed me to heal emotionally, reminding me of the necessity and power of the arts. Now, finally back home, I'm better able to process everything, but as of this writing am scrambling to get ready for my friend's wedding in India. Life's a roller coaster!"

Attending the Columbia Lightweight Rowing Class of 2019 Reunion on August 11 in Palo Alto, Calif., were, left to right: Alan Blaesser '19, Sebastian Krappe '19, George Patterson '19, Brooks Ralph SEAS'19, Gage Holzhauer '19, Jenson Carlgren '20, Ben Boccara '19 and Lorenzo Frati '19.

2018

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and Maleeha Chida
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mnc2122@columbia.edu

No news this time.

2019

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

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Emily Gruber
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emilyannegruber@gmail.com

No news this time.

2020

Stephen Cone and
Kyra Ann Dawkins
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kad2196@columbia.edu

Nathan dos Santos will begin doctoral research in colonial transatlantic history with the École normale supérieure PSL in Paris.

Sean Kim is studying toward a J.D. at the Cardozo School of Law.

Robert Willard will be studying in IHE Delft for an M.S. in water and sustainability studies, and continues to be involved in the World Aral Region Charity.

Thank you to all who submitted their notes, and we look forward to hearing from more of you.

2021

Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey Class of 2021! It feels like 2023 just came and went, right? I hope you had some time to spend with those around you whom you care about and are looking forward to a new year. If you would like to share a Class Note, please to reach out to me at any time.

Sophia Kolak hopes everyone is doing well and wants to share that things have been going great since graduation. Not only has she found happiness within the auto industry, but also romance. Yes, her time of working with old car parts in Detroit was not just about the smell of grease. There she learned to construct robots from the scraps, making eco-friendly robo-companions for the other factory workers, who were often unable to sustain wives/girlfriends due to harsh conditions of labor. She missed everyone so dearly and hopes to reconnect after her third-degree burns are done healing.

CC21of a kind!

2022

Mark Anthony Torres
mat2223@columbia.edu

No news this time.

2023

REUNION 2024
MAY 30–JUNE 1

Ashley Yu
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Hello Class of 2023! Although graduation was quite a few months ago, it feels like just yesterday when we were all walking down College Walk, studying at Butler and hanging out on Low Steps. Although no longer CC students, I cannot wait to connect with you as young alumni!

I hope many of you were able to attend Homecoming this past fall and reconnect with friends and classmates! If you would like to stay connected, sharing something for Class Notes is a great way to update classmates on your new adventures.

Joshua Fagan shares, "I have embarked on the next step of my education journey, pursuing graduate work in St Andrews University in Scotland, studying Victorian literature. As I walk along the beach and stare at the ruins of the medieval cathedral, I think back on the illuminating experiences I had at Columbia, and I look forward to returning to the United States for Ph.D. studies."

After graduating, **Chase Cutarelli** moved to Omaha to work for College Possible Omaha, a nonprofit that helps under-resourced high school students go to and succeed in college. Chase partners and works with students from Millard South H.S.

obituaries

Columbia College Today has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. To submit an obituary for a Columbia College graduate, please use the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_obituary.

1941 **Edward Alexander,** diplomat, Bethesda, Md., on October 5, 2023.*

1943 **Gerard A. Forlenza,** chemical engineer, Montclair, N.J., on July 17, 2023.*

1944 **Martin L. Beller,** orthopedic surgeon, Gaines, Pa., on June 6, 2023.*

1946 **Herbert Gold,** postwar novelist, San Francisco, on November 19, 2023.

1949 **Robert C. "Doc" Lincoln,** oral surgeon, Hingham, Mass., on May 11, 2023.*

William J. Lubic, attorney, Red Bank, N.J., on July 18, 2023.*

1950 **David Berger,** advertising executive, Madison, Wis., on October 28, 2023.*

1951 **Phillip A. Bruno,** art dealer, Glasgow, on September 22, 2023.*

1952 **Gerald Kahn,** attorney and Democratic district leader, New York City, on September 8, 2023.

1956 **Stanley Soren,** orthopedic surgeon, Staten Island, N.Y., on August 18, 2023.*

1957 **John F. Mathews,** retired TV news producer, Woodstock, Vt., on September 3, 2023.

1958 **Fredric "Rick" Brous,** consumer appliance retailer, Los Angeles, on August 26, 2023.*

1959 **Eugene "Gene" Appel,** mechanical engineer, Portland, Ore., on August 16, 2023.*

Barry D. "David" Peck, entrepreneur, Richmond, Va., on July 8, 2023.*

1960 **Robert A. Lewis,** psychiatrist, New York City, on April 24, 2023.

1962 **Martin S. Kaufman,** attorney, Scarsdale, N.Y., on October 3, 2023.

1963 **Burton A. Brody,** physics professor, New York City, on October 3, 2023.*

Sheldon R. "Shaya" Isenberg, rabbi and religion professor, Gainesville, Fla., on June 14, 2023.*

David H. Pittinsky, attorney, Haverford, Pa., on September 30, 2023.*

1964 **Jonathan S. Goldberg,** literature professor, Decatur, Ga., on December 9, 2022.*

Irving J. Spitzberg Jr., educator and attorney, Gaithersburg, Md., on October 13, 2023.*

Richard A. Stein, cardiologist and educator, New York City, on September 24, 2023.*

1966 **Richard L. Watson,** classical musician and wine importer, Washington, D.C., on May 8, 2023.

1967 **Joseph B. Solodow,** classics professor, Woodbridge, Conn., on October 4, 2023.*

1968 **Robert C. Cook,** businessman, artist and photographer, Sedona, Ariz., on February 10, 2023.*

1973 **Mark E. Lehman,** financial services sector general counsel, EVP and director, New York City, on August 27, 2023.*

1974 **Jonathan W. Cuneo,** attorney, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., on July 26, 2023.*

1978 **Robert P. Kerker Jr.,** computer expert, Rhinebeck, N.Y., on July 10, 2023.*

1980 **Daniel G. Larkins,** attorney and social worker, Elizabethtown, Pa., on October 7, 2023.*

1987 **Stephanie K. Wissinger,** nonprofit administrator, Brooklyn, N.Y., on November 15, 2023.

1992 **Kimberly L. Williams-Shuker,** market researcher and educator, Pittsburgh, on July 23, 2023.*

2006 **Ady Barkan,** an attorney and activist, Santa Barbara, Calif., on November 1, 2023.**

2018 **Adam J. Elkhadem,** artist and writer, Houston, on May 28, 2023.*

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* Full obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct. ** Featured obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

readitonline

JACK MITCHELL

THE JOY OF POETRY WITH DAVID LEHMAN '70

Poet **David Lehman '70** has a habit he shares with Emily Dickinson and Robert Browning: He writes a poem a day. He challenged himself to do so from 1996 to 2000 and resumed the practice during the pandemic, starting in August 2020. "You might write a sonnet on Monday. The next day you might write a poem about the dinner you had. Some days I write two poems," he says.

With nearly 60 books to his name — including 11 poetry collections — Lehman, 75, may be best known as the editor of *The Oxford Book of American Poetry.* An indispensable text in college literature courses since 2006, the 1,132-page tome collects the verse of 210 poets from the 17th century to the present, including previously overlooked female poets such as Josephine Miles and Anne Porter, blues singers like Bessie Smith, and rocker Bob Dylan.

Poetry aficionados know Lehman as the driving force behind the annual *Best American Poetry* series. Its 36 volumes (including two retrospectives) have celebrated the nation's most sublime, witty and sobering poems since 1988.

"David has without any question been one of the most influential people in American poetry for the last 40 years — not simply as an anthologist but also as a poet, critic and intellectual presence," says poet Dana Gioia, a former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. "As an editor, he has been inclusive in every sense of the word — culturally, politically and aesthetically. No one matches his record."

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Mark your calendars! Columbia Reunion is open to all alumni, with special celebrations for milestone classes — those ending in 4 and 9, and the Class of 2023. Your Columbia connections are more meaningful than ever, so plan to join us for inspiring programs, social get-togethers and much more.

Visit **college.columbia.edu/reunion** for details.

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Contents

features

8

The Things We Saved

Alumni share their treasured College mementos.

Compiled by Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

10

Graduating Lions Take the Field at Baker for Class Day

The Class of 2024 showed their strength and resilience, making their bonds — and pride — felt.

departments

1 Around the Quads

6 Roar, Lion, Roar

alumni **news**

12 Message from CCAA President Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

14 Bookshelf

16 Lions
Lamar Richardson '15; Tim Kennelly '87;
Julie Raskin '08; Ronen Glimer '96

18 Class Notes
Just Married!

53 Obituaries

54 Read It Online
Elizabeth Gabre Sellassie '89 outfits brides
of all stripes at her New York City salon.

CCT | Columbia College Today

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Around the Quads

New Provost and Chief Operating Officer Take Office

Angela V. Olinto, a pioneer of astroparticle physics, became the University's newest provost on April 1. She was most recently dean of the Division of the Physical Sciences and the Albert A. Michelson Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at Chicago.

Olinto's research has made seminal contributions to our understanding of the inflationary origins of the universe, the cosmological effects of magnetic fields, the structure of neutron stars, and the highest energy cosmic rays, gamma rays and neutrinos. The implications of her work touch on everything from the workings of the universe to the evolution of life on this planet.

She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. She is a fellow of the American Physical Society and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has served on many advisory committees for the National Academy of Sciences, Department of Energy, National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Olinto has received numerous teaching awards, including, most recently, the Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring at Chicago in 2015.

Cas Holloway began as Columbia's chief operating officer on Feb. 5. As a member of the University leadership team, Holloway will provide strategic oversight in key administrative areas including Facilities and Operations, Human Resources, Columbia University Information Technology, Columbia Health and Columbia Technology Ventures.

CHRISTIAN WHAN

Angela V. Olinto Cas Holloway

Holloway has had a distinguished career as a public servant, business leader and entrepreneur. After earning a degree from Harvard, he started his career at the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation; he went on to graduate from Chicago Law, clerk for a federal judge and work as a litigator for two New York law firms. From 2006 to 2014, Holloway worked in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration, eventually being appointed deputy mayor of operations. During the last decade he held leadership roles with Bloomberg and startups Unqork and Shiftsmart. Most recently, Holloway was a consultant to early-stage technology companies on their public sector strategies and advised organizations on a wide array of local, state and federal issues.

Trilling and Van Doren Awards

Eleanor Johnson, associate professor of English and comparative literature and director of the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, and Sharon Marcus, the Orlando Harriman Professor of English and Comparative Literature, have been honored with the 49th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award and the 63rd annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching, respectively. The awards are given annually by the Academic Awards Committee of the Columbia College Student Council.

Eleanor Johnson Sharon Marcus

Johnson was honored for her book *Waste and the Wasters: Poetry and Ecosystemic Thought in Medieval England* (2023), which, according to the committee, "subverts common notions of the medieval era to make a gripping statement on climate change with clear and profound implications for the present day." Her capacity for speaking to both the past and the present, and to literary and social analysis, fortified the committee's verdict: "Professor Johnson's scholarship speaks to the world."

The committee awarded Marcus for her engaging and accessible teaching, concluding that she is "an outstanding and passionate professor with a fierce dedication to her students' undergraduate education." Marcus cultivates student-led discussions that she contextualizes with other readings and concepts that tie in. This high participation rate and inclusiveness made it evident to the committee that all of her students have a "strong grasp of the text and its key themes."

Class of 2028 Admissions Decisions

On April 1, Undergraduate Admissions announced that 2,319 students were offered admission to the Class of 2028 by Columbia College and Columbia Engineering.

These students were selected from the third largest applicant pool in Columbia's history. In total, 60,248 students submitted their applications through the Early Decision and Regular Decision cycles. The admitted class includes students from all 50 states (as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Mariana Islands and the US Virgin Islands) and 108 countries.

"The students we admitted are so much more than their impressive credentials," said Jessica Marinaccio, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid. "Through their essays and extracurriculars, research projects and maker portfolios, they have revealed remarkable depth, dedication and inspiration."

A full schedule of in-person and virtual programming this summer, including alumni-hosted receptions in locations around the world, will allow admitted students and their families to get to know Columbia and their future classmates.

In Memoriam: Charles V. Hamilton, Political Scientist and Civil Rights Champion

Charles V. Hamilton, a godfather of the Black Power movement and the Wallace S. Sayre Professor of Government and Political Science from 1969 until his 1998 retirement, died on Nov. 18, 2023, in Chicago. He was 94.

In 1967, Hamilton and Stokely Carmichael, a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, published the seminal 1967 manifesto *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America.*

"Their book convulsed moderate and more conciliatory Black groups like the NAACP nearly as much as it confounded the white liberals who had traditionally supported civil rights," wrote *The New York Times.* "Its conclusion that racism was embedded in the nation's institutions further antagonized white people who had opposed any preferences for Black people in government policies to mitigate discrimination in housing, jobs, public accommodations and education."

COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Hamilton did not declare himself a militant or revolutionary, but his views often broke ranks with established groups such as the NAACP or the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which sought broad political and multiracial coalitions. He increasingly stressed that Black communities and other minorities take greater control of their own destinies. For Black people to belong to mainstream America, he said, they had "to understand that we are Black people and not ashamed of that."

"Chuck was very definitely the intellectual alter ego to Stokely Carmichael," his friend Jeh C. Johnson LAW'82, the former secretary of homeland security, said in an interview. "He was a quiet, dignified, soft-spoken, very progressive intellect behind the Black Power movement."

"The point we are trying to make in this book is that one's individual stance in relationship to the Black man is irrelevant," Hamilton told Studs Terkel in a radio interview in 1967. "It's what the system does, and that's why we use the term 'institutional racism.'"

Less than a decade later, as a strategist within the Democratic Party, Hamilton was criticized when he urged that the 1976 party platform be "deracialized" and promote benefits for disadvantaged people regardless of their color. He believed that the repercussions of institutional racism should be addressed without specifically mentioning race — to avoid a backlash from white voters — and that common ground needed to be found between poor Black and white citizens.

Hamilton was born in Muskogee, Okla., on Oct. 19, 1929, the middle of three children. His father, Owen, was a garage mechanic. His mother, Viola (née Haynes), brought Charles, his older brother and younger sister to Chicago's South Side in 1935.

He aspired to be a journalist but realized the opportunities for him as a Black man were few. Civil service meant security, so Hamilton gravitated toward government. He would later be an organizer for Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley and a Democratic Party strategist in several election cycles, including Jimmy Carter's successful presidential run in 1976.

After serving in the military in the late 1940s, Hamilton graduated from Roosevelt University in Chicago with a degree in political science in 1951. He enrolled in law school but did not stay there long, instead earning a master's from Chicago in 1957.

"I never wanted to be just a professor," he said in an interview with the Annual Review of Political Science in 2018. "I wanted to turn my academic life into an activist one." In 1958, he joined the faculty of Tuskegee Institute, but his contract was terminated just two years later. "I was too radical," he recalled in 2021. "I was teaching the kids how to contact Congress and march and protest."

Martin Luther King Jr. planned a visit to Tuskegee in the late 1950s, but administrators were so fearful of campus unrest that King's speech was delivered at a nearby church. Hamilton saw a hero in King and was the only Tuskegee professor to attend. He and King posed for a photo that Hamilton treasured all his life.

Hamilton returned to Chicago, where he earned a doctorate in 1964. He then taught at Rutgers University, Lincoln University and Roosevelt University before joining Columbia, where he became one of the first African Americans to hold an academic chair at an Ivy League university.

His wife, Dona Cooper Hamilton SW'82, died in 2015. He is survived by a stepdaughter, Valli. His daughter, Carol, died in 1996.

CoreColumn

Enemies, A Core Story

By Larry Jackson

One of the questions that students grapple with in Literature Humanities is how to interrupt the endless cycles of revenge that we read about in ancient texts. In Homer's *The Iliad,* Achilles feels pity for his enemy Priam long enough for the Trojan king to bury his son Hektor. Genesis ends with Joseph forgiving the deceitful brothers who sold him into slavery. Athena and Apollo establish a new order of justice to end the multigenerational tragedy of Aeschylus' *Oresteia.*

I was thinking of these moments of pity, forgiveness and justice as I watched a group of Columbia students discussing tragedies — ancient and modern — in Miller Theatre in late February. The students were part of a tragic chorus that was reading excerpts from Book VI of *The Iliad* and scenes from Euripides' tragedy *The Trojan Women.* The performance, directed by Brian Doerries, the founder and director of Theater of War Productions, focused on the fate of Hektor's toddler son, Astyanax. We meet the young boy in one of *The Iliad*'s few domestic scenes; in Euripides' tragedy, we witness his murder at the hands of the Achaeans, who fear he will one day avenge his father's death. "Pain begets pain, trauma upon trauma," Hektor's mother, Hecuba, laments in Doerries' translation of *The Trojan Women,* summing up the awful logic of tragedy.

EMMA ASHER

Core Curriculum director Larry Jackson

The performances included acclaimed actors Jeffrey Wright, a 2023 Academy Award nominee for Best Actor, and Lois Smith, from *The French Dispatch.* But the real stars were the Israeli, Palestinian, Arab and American Jewish students who formed the tragic chorus and led the 90-minute discussion that followed each performance.

The Witten Center for the Core Curriculum organized this event for the Columbia community because we know what literature can do. It can enable us to recognize the humanity of our enemies. It can provide spaces for difficult discussions about contentious issues without seeking consensus or persuasion. And it can help us to name the unspeakable tragedies of our world, and endure the pain they cause.

We know that literature can do all of this because we see it happen every day in dozens of campus classrooms as more than 1,000 students discuss texts about war, racial injustice and exile in Literature Humanities. My colleague Clémence Boulouque and I reached out to Doerries to organize this performance knowing that the Core's highest purpose is to foster community and to promote healing in times of crisis and conflict. We believed that the way forward for our divided community was to elevate and expand the work that we carry out each day in our classrooms, and that, in doing so, we might appeal to the best in others rather than shunning the worst in them.

The discussion that followed each performance delved into the most painful issues raised by the Oct. 7 Hamas massacres and the war in Gaza: sexual violence, abductions, the murder of civilians, famine, displacement and tragic cycles of conflict so old that no one can agree on how or when they began. Then the discussion would return to the texts: to the Greek authors who depicted the humanity of their vanquished enemies and the atrocities of their own soldiers; to the choices made by the characters; and to the meaning of their words.

The most inspiring moment for me was also the most ordinary. An Israeli student who had served in the IDF and was saying little in the discussion spoke at last, her voice quivering. Next to her sat a Palestinian student. He turned to the Israeli student next to him when she finished speaking, and responded using a familiar phrase: "I would just like to build on what you said."

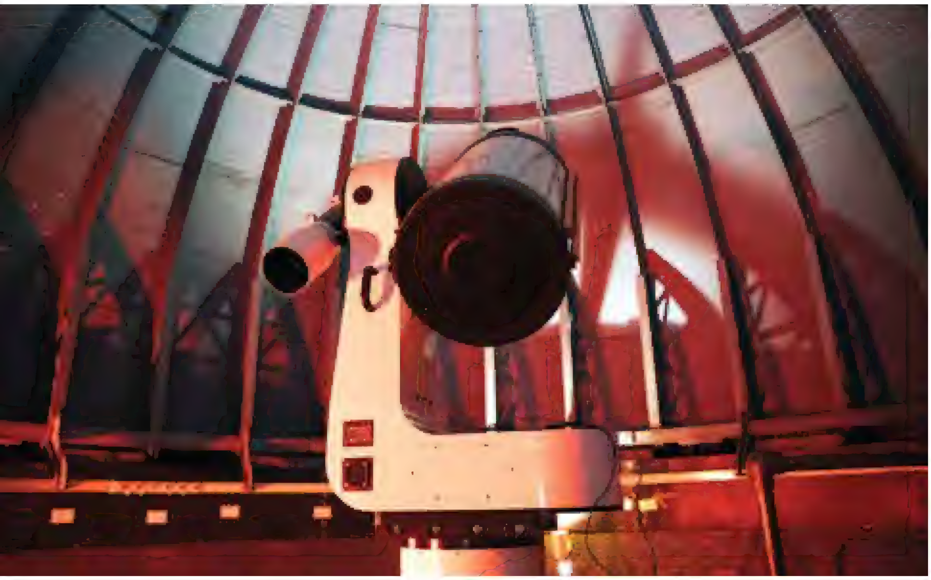
Academy Award nominee Jeffrey Wright took a selfie with the Columbia students who made up the tragic chorus at the Feb. 27 performance of *Hector, Andromache, and the Death of Astyanax.*

We hear this phrase perhaps a dozen times in every Core class as students construct their interpretations collaboratively, each contributing their own insight. The student's phrase could not have been more prosaic, and yet, that day, knowing who the panelists were and why they were there, hearing them talk about their own painful experiences with prejudice, injustice and war, and sensing the courage that it took simply to be in that space together, I choked back tears.

After the final performance, Wright took a selfie with the student chorus, their smiles broad, radiating the camaraderie of old friends, though most of them had met only 48 hours earlier. Watching them pose, I thought again of Aeschylus: "In our sleep, pain, which cannot forget, falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God." Bobby Kennedy, who knew something about tragedy, recited these lines from memory on April 4, 1968, when he announced the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. to a crowd in Indianapolis, and urged them to stop the tragic cycle of violence that had taken the life of a great man hours earlier.

In another context those students posing so happily on the stage of Miller Theatre might have been enemies. In a political climate dominated by social media and cable news, they might have been taught that they cannot be friends. But through literature, they found a way to interrupt these cycles of enmity. And they discovered a truth that we should all heed — that wisdom comes not from our own suffering, but by acknowledging the pain of others.

To read more about the collaboration between the Core and Theater of War, go online to bit.ly/49JL4NX.



EMMA ASHER

Did*You*Know?

Columbia Has Its Own Rooftop Observatory

The copper dome on top of Pupin Hall holds a secret — it's an observatory! Rutherfurd Observatory has sat atop Pupin since the building opened in 1927. It has cycled through several telescopes through the decades; currently, the retractable dome houses a Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain with an 11-inch aperture as well as a 14-inch Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain. Every other Friday evening during the school year, the astronomy department offers free public lectures, accompanied by guided stargazing.

Student*Spotlight*

Suie Choi '24

Suie Choi '24 (she/her) was co-president of the spring 2024 Bacchanal, Columbia's long-running, multi-artist musical festival. As she says, it's "all about coming together and celebrating community." This year's event was held on April 6 on Low Plaza, and featured J.I.D as the headliner, AG Club as the supporting artist, and Chandra [SEAS'25] as the student opener. Choi is an economics major from Livingston, N.J.

How did you get involved with Bacchanal?

I got involved during my first year as a part of its general body; that was during Covid-19, so being part of Bacchanal was definitely a lot different back then! When we came back in person during my sophomore year, I was part of the press team. In my junior year, I was elected to the executive board as the co-VP of finance and sponsorships. So every year my involvement has been different; it's been a really rewarding experience to witness the festival's growth year after year from within my different roles.

What has been your favorite Bacchanal experience?

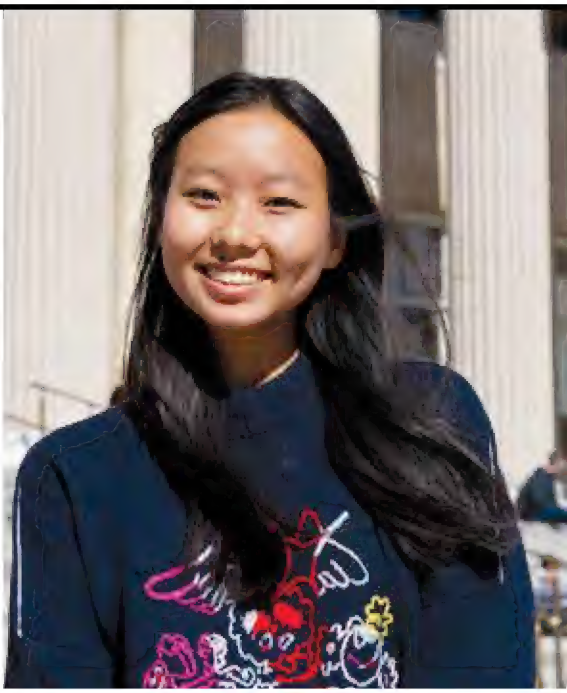
Definitely the day of show in my junior year! That was the first time Bacchanal was held on campus during my time at Columbia. The headliner was Doechii, for supporting artists we had Bakar and Bktherula, and our student opener was Mayce ['24]. I'm super excited the event [was] on campus again this year!

What was your favorite class at the College, and why?

One of my favorite classes was "Technology, Religion, Future" with Professor David Kittay [GSAS'11]. It changed the way that I engage with and view technology and social media.

What did you like to do outside of class?

I was a part of CORE, which is the Columbia Organization for Rising Entrepreneurs; I led the planning on Global Tech Treks. I also worked at the Columbia Climate School as an administrative intern.



EMMA ASHER

How do you like to take advantage of being in New York City?

One of the main reasons I decided to apply to Columbia was its location. I like to explore the city's diverse music scene, whether that's catching DJ sets in Brooklyn or attending larger concerts in iconic spaces like Madison Square Garden. I also love eating at different restaurants and trying new foods. The city has so many different places and things to offer; there's always something new to try!

JILL SHOMER

Eleanor Johnson

By Jill C. Shomer

"Heeeere's Johnny!"

The most famous scene of *The Shining* is on screen in a lecture hall during "History of Horror," and Jack Torrance's crazed announcement to his terrified wife, Wendy, is under discussion. As Eleanor Johnson, associate professor of English and comparative literature, explains, the disturbing events at the Overlook Hotel offer scares, and also context, to explore the complex issue of domestic violence.

"The soul of horror is the disruption of domestic life," Johnson tells the class. In *The Shining*, she says, the Torrance family is endangered not only by the hotel's ghosts, but by the corporeal threats of imperiled masculinity, isolation, gaslighting and the age-old patriarchal doctrine of "correction."

It's a fascinating conversation, and a popular one: Johnson says "History of Horror" was one of the biggest humanities classes at the College when it was first taught in Spring 2022. The course, which she co-teaches with Jeremy Dauber, the Atran Professor of Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture, takes the genre seriously, asserting that despite its pulpy reputation, horror is capable of offering profound cultural, political and historical critique. The syllabus covers a surprising range — 700 years of chillers, from *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* to *Get Out.*

"We've stumbled onto something that's both intellectually interesting and totally the zeitgeist," Johnson says. "Horror is just exploding right now."

Creepy stuff is not Johnson's only area of expertise. She also specializes in late medieval prose, poetry and drama; law and literature of the Middle Ages; and vernacular theology, which is the study of Christian texts written in dialects other than Latin. "It's a sort of contemplative writing," Johnson explains. "These works were supposed to make you feel like you were understanding God."

She first wrote about medieval horror in 2015, then made a related discovery a few years later while writing her third book, *Waste and the Wasters: Poetry and Ecosystemic Thought in Medieval England* (2023). "There's a subgenre in medieval literature that's basically eco-horror — nature going rogue," she says. "There's more writing like that in the Middle Ages than any scholarship acknowledges."

Johnson never expected to become an expert in either horror or literature. In fact, she was studying physics at Yale when a required English course with renowned Chaucer scholar Lee Patterson altered her path. After getting a low grade on a paper, she went to Patterson for advice and came away inspired. "I loved that he took this really old poetry really seriously," Johnson says. "I got into medieval poetry because that's what he did." She became an English major in her senior year, then earned a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 2009. She started at Columbia the same year.

It's been an exciting time for Johnson lately: This past spring she received the 2024 Lionel Trilling Book Award for *Waste and the Wasters,* and a mass-market release is in the works for her next book, an examination of 1970s-era horror films and their relationship to feminist law (she also blogs regularly on the overlap between horror and feminism on the Substack "Eleanor's Horrors"). In January, she became the director of the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life (IRCPL).

"I was not planning on taking over an institute this year," Johnson says with a laugh. But the stars aligned when a colleague connected Johnson with former IRCPL director Matthew Engelke (chair of the Department of Religion), who had organized a speaker series on monsters and monstrosity. "Matthew and I had a long conversation about theological history and how horror interfaces with American public life," she says. "And it just quickly snowballed from there."

Johnson is currently facilitating an IRCPL series about climate and religion; this fall, the institute will feature a program about the history of violence against women. She is passionate about undergraduate engagement, so she has also pioneered a series of lunch talks that she hopes will make IRCPL more familiar and accessible to students. "It's not going to be a lecture," Johnson says. "It'll be more like: 'If you're interested in, say, zombies, let's nerd out for two hours.'"

Johnson takes joy in teaching a wide array of classes, and is grateful for both the support of her colleagues in the English department and the willingness of her students to take these pedagogical journeys with her. "One of the best things about being at Columbia is that the undergraduates are just, like, *phosphorescently* brilliant," Johnson says. "They really care about things a lot, and they're so willing to get on board with you. So if you want to beta test some insane idea — like 700 years of horror! — they show up, and are very engaged.

"I've learned a lot from working with them," she says. "And it's shaped and fostered everything that I do."

ROAR, LION, ROAR

Charlotte Buck '18 Rows for the Gold

By Charles Butler '85, JRN'99

The Columbia women's crew record holder is heading to Paris with Team USA

DIEDRE MCLOUGHLIN

Charlotte Buck '18 may have been halfway across the globe, but her parents, Sharon Quayle and Roger Buck, were keeping a close watch on her. Their challenge: At a crucial moment in their daughter's life, they could do nothing to help her.

On that July evening in 2021, they stared at a TV screen in a raucous bar in Nyack, N.Y., as Buck and her seven teammates, competing in the Tokyo Olympics' eight-women rowing final, stroked and stroked and stroked some more, desperate to catch the three boats ahead of their American crew. The United States had dominated this event for years, winning gold in 2008, 2012 and 2016. That domination was now in jeopardy on the waters of Tokyo Bay.

Before the race began, Roger, and Sharon, who graduated from VPS in 1988, kept their expectations for the team — and their daughter, competing in her first Olympics — guarded. "There was a good chance they would medal," Roger, a geophysics professor at Columbia since 1984, recalls during a recent conversation. Sharon cuts in, "A good chance, but no guarantee."

As the race drew to a close, so did the cheering in the bar. The American boat ended up in fourth. There would be no victory, no medal. Sharon and Roger, clad in matching white T-shirts emblazoned with a crimson rising sun, looked blankly at the screen. In a few hours they would take a phone call from the younger of their two daughters. "She was pretty crushed," Sharon says. Were there tears? "Yes."

EAMON GLAVIN

Buck at fall practice at the Caspersen Rowing Center at Mercer Lake in New Jersey.

Three years later, Charlotte Buck has turned disappointment into resolve. This summer, at the Paris Olympics, she will once again be on the American rowing team, and this time she won't need to phone home. Her parents and her older sister, Suzanna '14, expect to be at the Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium, rooting her on. If all goes according to plan, they'll see Buck and her teammates reclaim their sport's top podium position. "I've ticked off the box and become an Olympian," Buck says, "but I want to medal. I'd really like a gold medal."

Such a lofty goal would have seemed ludicrous when Buck entered the College. She joined crew as a walk-on. "The reason I did it was to have friends; it wasn't to be the best," Buck says, smiling. Athletics had played only a bit part while growing up in Nyack. She was known mostly for performing in a children's Shakespeare company. Her parents call her bookish; Sam Warren '13, the Columbia crew's associate head coach, doesn't disagree. "I don't want to call her a nerd because I know she'll get mad at me, but she is not your average Olympic athlete," Warren says.

If Buck's résumé was thin — she began rowing a month before Orientation — her presence was hard to miss. Six feet tall and broad-shouldered, she had the specs for the sport. She soon showed she also had the stamina — surviving the 6 a.m. practices, the commute to the 218th Street boathouse, the frigid training on the Harlem River — and the strength for it. In fact, Buck owns the Columbia women's record for doing a 2,000m row

At the Olympic village during the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, left to right: Katelin Guregian (coxswain), Kristine O’Brien, Meghan Musnicki, Regina Salmons, Olivia Coffey, Brooke Mooney, Gia Doonan, Buck and Jess Thoennes.

in 6:49. “When she was able to break 7 minutes pretty easily, that’s when we knew [of her potential],” says Warren, who coached Buck during her junior and senior years. “That really separates you from most post-college-level students.”

Buck acknowledges that rowing provided an outlet for her strength and competitive nature. A subtlety of the sport, though, stirred her obsession. “When you’re rowing well and it feels perfect and you’re in time with all your teammates, nothing feels better. It feels almost magical,” Buck says. “I always keep chasing that moment of perfection.”

After graduation, Buck had more chase in her. For much of the next two years, she trained mostly on her own. The work paid off when she won a spot on the Tokyo squad, becoming just the second Columbia woman to make an Olympic rowing team. (The other was Stacey Borgman BC’98 in 2004.) The day Buck learned she and her teammates were Olympians, “tears streamed down our faces. It was sheer relief and excitement and just exhaustion. I called my college coaches, my parents, everyone. I was like, ‘Guys, I made it!’”

The American team’s medal-less finish in Tokyo brought tears of a different kind, but at just 26, Buck knew she still had more Olympic opportunities. She helped to ensure that last summer, at the World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia. Six boats competed in the women’s 2,000m eight race; the top five would qualify for Paris. Even though the U.S. boat was a favorite, it was stuck in last place through the first third of the race. Nobu Ishizuka ’82, LAW’86, a former Columbia rower and now president of USRowing, was in Belgrade and witnessed the race unfold.

“Because of the mass that has to get moving and the endurance needed to keep your speed,” Ishizuka explains, “races are usually decided, at least in terms of medals, within 250 to 500 meters of the start.” But he watched as the American boat “clawed” its way through the last 500 meters to get the silver medal and an Olympic bid. “That is virtually unheard of, especially in an eight-race of any level.” Positioned in the stroke seat, Buck was the one setting the come-from-behind pace.

Weeks later, at a banquet in New York City, Ishizuka had the chance to talk with Buck about the comeback. “How in the world did you do that?” he asked. “We just had the confidence,” she told him. “We knew we could do it even when we were so far behind.”

The World Championships finish secured the American boat’s place in Paris. Like her teammates, though, Buck would not know for seven months if she had nailed her own Olympic spot. That meant more 6 a.m. practices, weeks of high-altitude training and daily assessments from coaches — all while holding down a part-time sales analyst job with a fintech company. The reward came in April when Buck got the news: Her coaches had selected her for the American team. “It’s crazy, it’s ridiculous,” she says. “My mom keeps telling me that I used to be a couch potato. What happened? I don’t know. Sometimes you just keep putting one foot in front of the other and you end up an Olympian. Nobody would have predicted it.”

EAMON GLAVIN

Buck (right) with coxswain Nina Castagna on Mercer Lake.

Buck won’t know until weeks before the Games which boat — the women’s four or eight — she’ll race in. She says it doesn’t matter. She’s about to do something few walk-ons ever have the chance to do. “The most important thing is winning,” Buck says. “So wherever I’m going to help us win, that is where I want to be.” And this time, the cheering squad will be nearby.

Charles Butler ’85, JRN’99 *is a journalism professor at the University of Oregon. He is researching a book on Lou Little.*

THE THINGS WE SAVED

ILLUSTRATION BY
IRENA ROMAN

WE GOT TO WONDERING — WHAT MEMENTOS HAVE ALUMNI KEPT FROM THEIR TIME AT COLUMBIA?

COMPILED BY
ANNE-RYAN SIRJU JRN'09

1. DR. ROBERT KLAPPER '79, VPS'83 // Columbia University Bookstore Planner

This planner is a prized possession. I found it in a box a few years ago, and I go back in time to my freshman year whenever I look at it. I have my schedule at a glance, all these notes like "wash your clothes, write a paper, read your chemistry book" — and notes for my tutoring sessions with Robert Crochelt '78. Back then I thought Bob was an employee of the University doing tutoring. It was not until years later when I saw his name in the 1978 Class Notes column that I realized he was only a year ahead of me! He was an angel from above going out of his way to help me; without those tutoring sessions, I never would have made it through freshman chemistry and become who I am today.

2. MATT SODL '88 // Football Helmet

My Columbia football helmet shows the battle scars of four years of Ivy League football. It was a privilege to represent Columbia on the field, and I'm honored to pass this legacy on to my son, Patrick '26, who also wears Columbia blue!

3. DINA FEIVELSON '91, PH'06 // Mug from John Jay Dining Hall

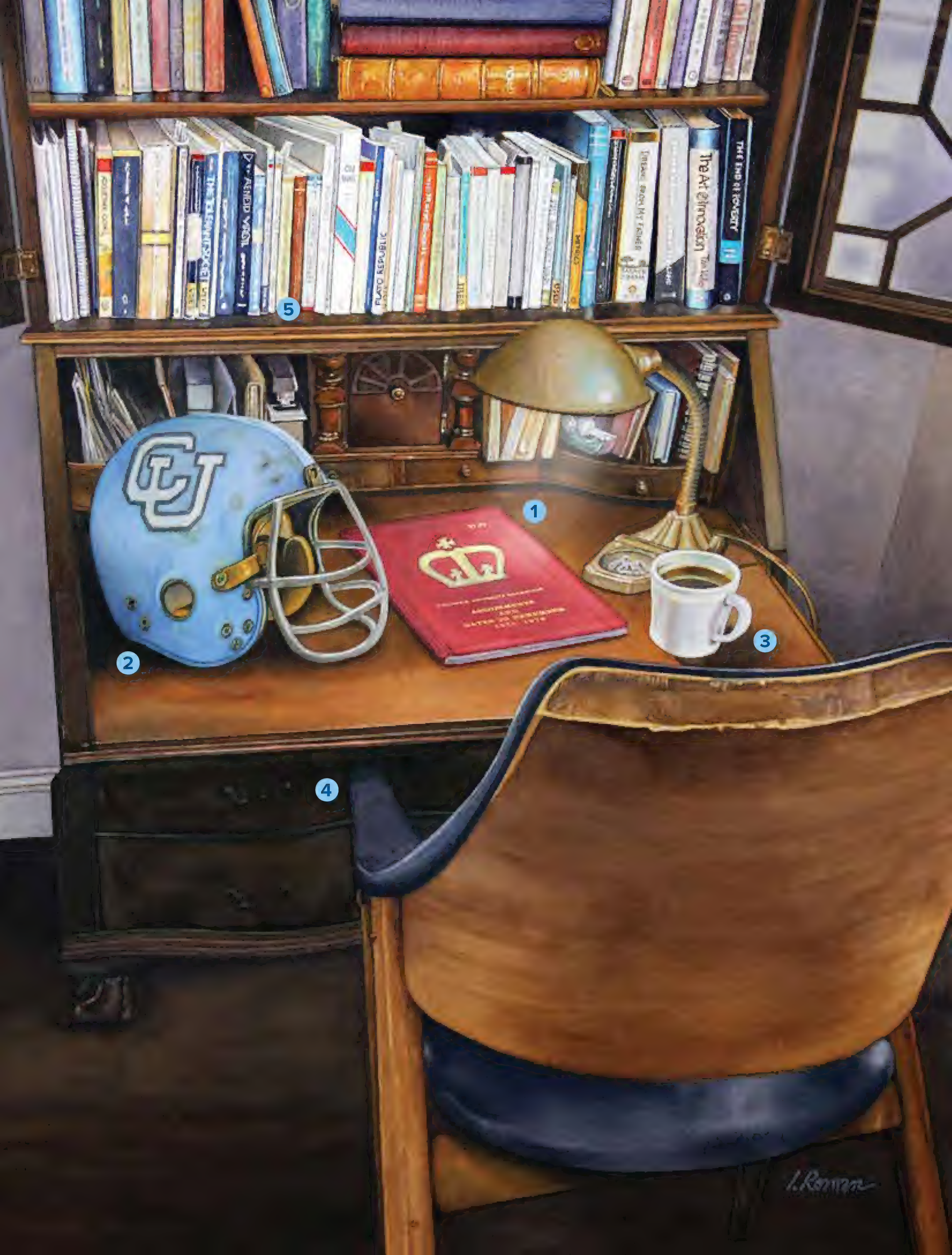
I have a mug I "borrowed" from John Jay Dining Hall. I lived in John Jay for two and a half years, so the dining hall was basically my kitchen; if we didn't finish something we would just take it upstairs, and that's how I got my mug. Now it's great nostalgia to have it, along with my Columbia Club of New York mug and my Columbia Centennial Circle mug!

4. BICH-NGA NGUYEN '96 // Chair from the Admissions Office

I rescued a chair from my work-study job in the Admissions Office. It was going to go in the trash; I was living in Wien at the time and all I had in my room was the standard-issue chair with a desk. This chair had arms you could snuggle into and was much more comfortable, so I asked if I could have it, and they said, "Sure!"

5. KHALID ALI '04 // Lit Hum Books

Despite a dozen moves within and outside the United States and a wife and two kids later, somehow, somewhere, I've managed to hold on to most of my Lit Hum and CC books. One morning in the midst of the 2016 election season I found — to my surprise, delight and pride — my daughter (who was 4 at the time and already a bookworm) flipping through *The Federalist Papers*.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THE END OF POVERTY
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GRADUATING LIONS TAKE THE FIELD AT BAKER FOR CLASS DAY

The Class of 2024 showed their strength and resilience, making their bonds — and pride — felt

THE SENSE OF UNITY and strength of character that define the Class of 2024 were on full display at Class Day on May 14. From laughter at the memory of their rain-soaked Convocation, to cheers in support of the recent work done by the journalists of *Spectator* and WKCR, these graduates made their bonds — and class pride — felt.

The ceremony, at which 1,041 graduates and degree candidates joined the ranks of alumni, took place under sunny skies and against the unconventional backdrop of Baker Athletics Complex. The blue-gowned cohort marched in carrying the inflatable lions typically reserved for Commencement and took their seats under a tent on the soccer field. Though the rumble of the elevated subway could occasionally be heard, it was nothing compared to the roars that went up for the students called on stage to receive awards, among them valedictorian Kathy Fang ’24 and salutatorian Mrinalini Sisodia Wadhwa ’24.

The program’s featured speakers included Dean Josef Sorett; the keynote speaker, journalist Poppy Harlow ’05; student speaker, Nicolas Lama ’24; and senior class president, Priya Chainani ’24.

Chainani delivered a twist on the notion of “unprecedented times,” observing how familiar that phrase has become to a class that began remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and spent its final weeks in the midst of protest and campus turmoil. But, as she said, their class has shown itself to be unprecedented, in how it has responded to the challenges that have come its way and in its ability to foster community despite adversity.

Referencing Columbia’s motto, “In thy light, we shall see light,” Chainani said, “What I think is truly remarkable is how our class completely redefined what this seal means. In our time here, students have illuminated their impact and power despite so much darkness in the world.”

Student speaker Lama began by recalling the torrential storm that upended their class’ expectations for a jubilant welcome at Convocation — a preface to observing that uncertainty is a concept the Class of 2024 knows all too well. But, he continued, “Columbia has shown me time and time again that in uncertainty, there is always opportunity. …

“I encourage you to go forth and embrace these new unknown waters before us with an open mind and open heart,” Lama said. “Do not get trapped in believing your identity is stagnant, that you can’t always listen, learn, grow and evolve. Our futures will have the infinite capacity to keep surprising us, if we continue to be the resilient class I know we are.”

Harlow, best known for her reporting with CNN, delivered a deeply personal speech that

> “Take it from me. Don’t run through your life. Savor time. Sit in the goodness that is the gift of those around you.”
>
> — Keynote speaker Poppy Harlow ’05

Photographs by Eileen Barroso

she promised would be honest if imperfect. She reflected on her father, James Harlow ’69, who died when she was 15, and described an interview subject who changed her life with advice about the importance of “time and love — that’s the whole ballgame.”

Harlow observed that, like the graduates, she was currently “in between” — in her case, following the recent cancellation of the morning show that she’d been anchoring. “People don’t often talk about this part of life,” she said. “But we should, because the ‘in between’ is so much of life. It’s where insecurities rise, but resilience shines. And it’s where you get to choose the life you want — and find out how strong you can be.” Describing her own efforts to prioritize her family, she said, “Take it from me. Don’t run through your life. Savor time. Sit in the goodness that is the gift of those around you.”

In his remarks, Sorett spoke directly to the challenges of this moment, taking his theme from Langston Hughes’ 1951 poem *Harlem.* “This year our community has witnessed things, collectively and as individuals, that have left lasting and painful imprints on many of us here today. What will each of us do in the face of all that we remember of this most recent academic year?”

Sorett also spoke to his experience with the class: “You have surprised me on countless occasions by making startling observations and connections across disciplines, decades and philosophical and artistic traditions. You have pushed me to think differently about things I have discussed, written and thought about for years — forcing me to rethink how I teach and what I teach.”

He concluded, “It is my sincere hope that among the things you carry as you leave Columbia College are a belief in yourself and in others, that you remain open to new ideas and [retain] a capacity to change. You no doubt leave with the ability to interrogate the world around you — to see it as it is. And, I hope, you also leave with a commitment to do good in whatever way is true to who you are.

“Like generations before you, you step out into the world at a moment when there is a fierce and urgent need for your goodwill and for the intelligence to act on it in ways that move us to a better place. Through the pain and the joy, we are still here; and there is, indeed, an entire world waiting to see what you’re going to do with all that you remember from this time and this place.”

Commencement, ordinarily the capstone event for graduates from all of Columbia’s schools, was not held this year. Instead, on May 15, graduates gathered on campus for student-led festivities titled “University Convocation 2024: For Students, By Students.”

To read Dean Josef Sorett’s 2024 Class Day speech, go online to bit.ly/3zhXLSS.

Cultivating Communities Near and Far

By Sherri Pancer Wolf '90

"The greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world." As an alumna living 200 miles away in Boston for the last three decades, I appreciate the geographic challenges around maintaining a relationship with Columbia. The Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) has annual events and outreach in many communities outside of the Tri-State area because we value alumni both near and far. The West Coast has emerged as the second-largest location for Columbia graduates and is a great example of how alumni make their presence and impact felt beyond the Northeast.

This year marked the second annual West Coast Honors, an event at which the CCAA recognizes outstanding alumni who reside on the West Coast. We present awards for exceptional volunteerism and notable professional achievements to alumni in San Francisco and Los Angeles. This year's events took place on June 5 in L.A. and June 6 in San Francisco. We were excited to have Dean Josef Sorett join us, demonstrating the strong bonds with Columbia that exist even more than 3,000 miles from College Walk. Here, we introduce you to the four honorees. They share how the College shaped them, the ways they stay connected and how they give back.

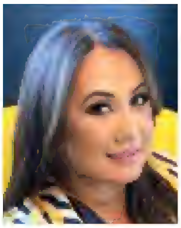
LAUREN ACCORDINO '09
Trailblazer Award (Los Angeles)

When I left New York for Los Angeles, I was thrilled to be reunited with my family; however, I felt like I was leaving my Columbia community behind. I discovered the Young Leaders Council and was excited to be tasked with launching and building the YLC chapter in Los Angeles. I established digital events that connected YLC members nationwide, while in person, our YLC members have built a tight-knit community through intimate dinners, career-coaching workshops and partnerships with the Columbia College Fund's Fund Development Council and Alumnae Legacy Circle for events. I'm excited about our newest program, Core Connections, which aims to create deeper relationships among YLC, FDC and ALC and members.

I give because I love Columbia. I am so proud of the education I received and am truly grateful for the experience that I had. I met the love of my life, created lifelong friendships, and developed critical thinking and an intellectual openness to new ideas. I feel a duty to give back to the school due to all it has given to me. I am forever proud to say, "I am a Columbia alumna."

CHRIS JONES '07
Trailblazer Award (San Francisco)

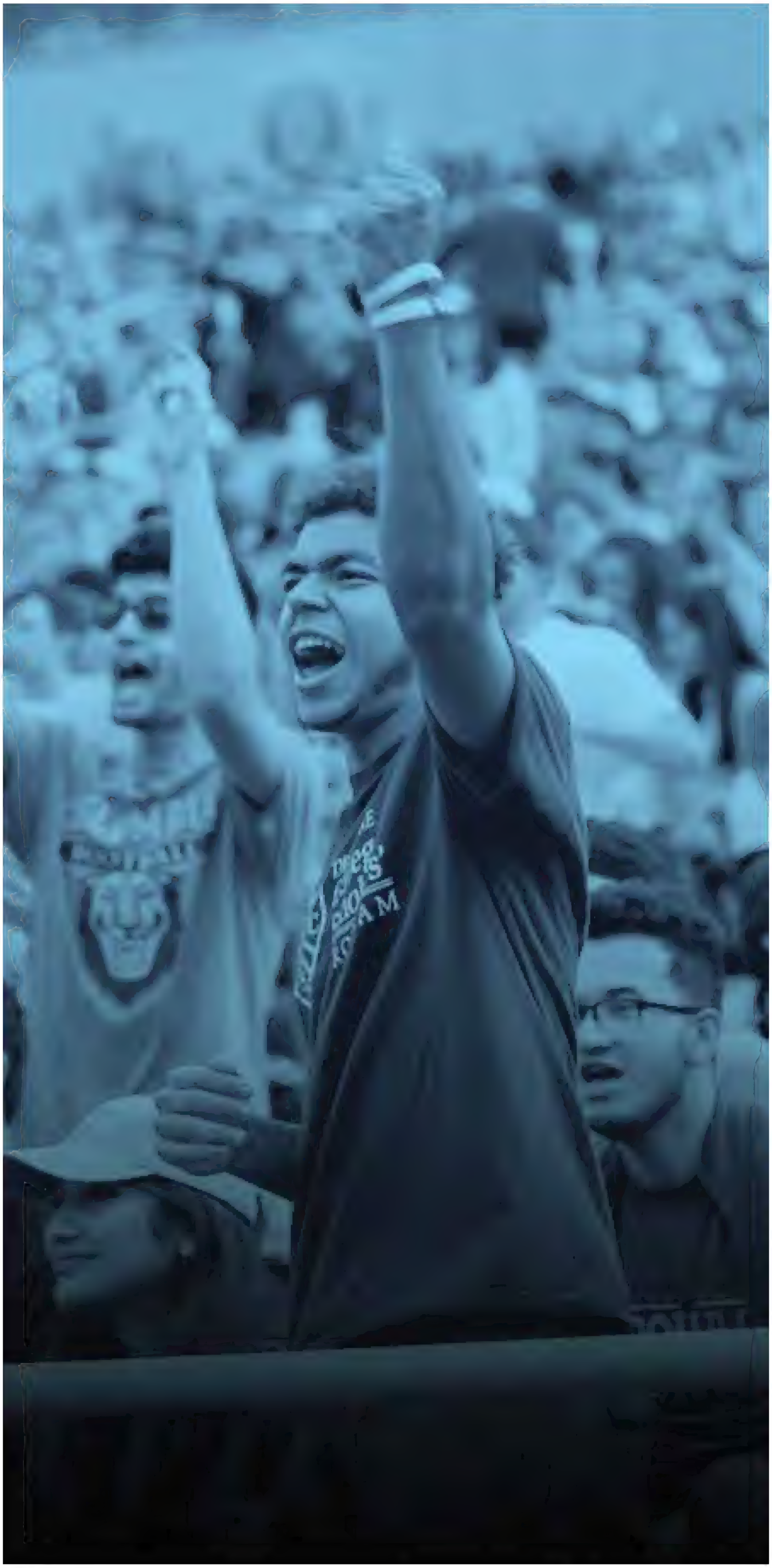
After stepping down as president of the Black Alumni Council, I helped establish a BAC Bay Area Chapter in 2018, and in 2020, I assumed the role of inaugural diversity director for the Columbia University Alumni Club of Northern California. I worked to promote diversity and inclusion at a time when the country was quarantined and social justice issues were at the forefront of public discourse. Currently, as co-chair of the Columbia Alumni Association Board's Associations and Clubs Committee, I contribute to the development and support of alumni organizations across the West Coast. My motivation to give back stems from a profound appreciation for the opportunities and experiences I gained at the College. I believe that by engaging with alumni, I can strengthen the University and support current and future students.



MELISSA DE LA CRUZ '93
Spirit of Creativity and Innovation Award (Los Angeles)

Columbia was an amazing place to meet and learn from people from all across the world. My College best friend is Australian, and we bonded over being immigrants.

My family left the Philippines when I was 13. I had only been in the USA for four years when I arrived at Columbia; I say that it was the place I felt I became American. I had always harbored dreams of becoming a writer, and my friends were incredibly supportive. My professors of literature, poetry and art history — Kenneth Koch, Wallace Gray, Leo Steinberg, Johanna Drucker — were also influential in my development. I remember my Music Hum teacher, Kitty Brazelton GSAS'94, who took us to a jazz club in the Village. Going to Columbia is an education in every sense; a time to discover yourself, the world and New York City.



I was junior class president, and am still great friends with my Columbia crew. Through the years I've come back to the College to talk about my books and to present on panels. The Columbia SoCal contingent is very strong in Los Angeles; there's a get-together every few months. And there's a large Columbia contingent in publishing and in Hollywood, so it's nice to have that network to rely on. Plus, my family travels to New York regularly and most of my friends are still in the city, so we see each other all the time. I also try to make it to reunion for the big years!

SEAN DUFFY '06

Spirit of Creativity and Innovation Award (San Francisco)

At Omada Health, where I work, I live in a world of combining disciplines. My morning is recruiting AI talent to join our mission. My afternoon is getting smarter on Medicare Advantage updates in partnership with our policy team. Reflecting on my College education, it hits me that the breadth of the Core Curriculum set me up — and sets all College students up — to be laterally curious and to build connections among different disciplines. We live in a world of massive convergence; lateral curiosity and perspective is an important asset for tomorrow's contributions.

I stay connected to the College through people and settings. On the people front, it's about staying in touch with close friends from my undergraduate studies, while forgiving myself and knowing it's impossible to reach everyone. On the settings front, I'm pulled to NYC frequently. One of my favorite things to do is pop up to campus and simply walk around.

*book*shelf

TURN IT UP!
MY TIME MAKING HIT RECORDS IN THE GLORY DAYS OF ROCK MUSIC
TOM WERMAN
PAUL AUSTER
BAUMGARTNER
a novel
A Convenient Villain

Hot Hand Sutras: Essays and Articles *by Lawrence Shainberg '58.* Shainberg's collection of fiction and non-fiction includes previously published works and some published for the first time (independently published, $12.95).

After Camus *by Jay Neugeboren '59.* This vivid portrait of a marriage spans a series of historical events, from the Vietnam War through the AIDS epidemic and Gulf War, to the Iraq War and the advent of the right-wing Le Pen movement in France (Madville Publishing, $21.95).

Turn It Up! My Time Making Hit Records in the Glory Days of Rock Music *by Tom Werman '67.* Former Epic Records producer and A&R man Werman details his rocking career, which spanned more than three decades (Jawbone Press, $24.95).

Baumgartner: A Novel *by Paul Auster '69.* In Auster's last novel, his 18th, a grieving, soon-to-be retired philosophy professor wonders why we remember certain moments and forget others (Grove Press, $27).

Paul Kontny: A Modern Artist in Europe and America *by Stan Cuba '70.* Kontny's creative output — works on paper, sculpture and oils — derived from his keen observation of people and the world around him (University Press of Colorado, $49.95).

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

Tricks of the Light: Essays on Art and Spectacle *by Jonathan Crary '72.* Critic and art historian Crary responds to modern and contemporary art and to the transformations of 20th-century media systems and technological environments (Zone Books, $32).

The Art of Walking: A History in 100 Images *by William Chapman Sharpe '73.* Sharpe's is the first book to trace the history of walking, depicted in images from cave art to contemporary performance (Yale University Press, $30).

Radiant: The Life and Line of Keith Haring *by Brad Gooch '73.* Acclaimed biographer Gooch details the life of the iconic American artist, drawing on his rich archive and extensive interviews with those who knew Haring best (Harper, $40).

Power, Image, & Memory: Historical Subjects in Art *by Peter J. Holliday '75.* Holliday's volume examines a wide variety of artistic traditions, showing how art commemorating historical events can shape collective memory (Oxford University Press, $35).

The Taekwonderoos: Rescue at Rattling Ridge *by Michael Panzer '80.* George, Brianna and Jackson, kangaroo friends who are masters of tae kwon do, spring into action to save a frightened joey in trouble (Twin Unicorn Publishing, $12.99).

The Other Murder *by Kevin Chapman '83.* In Chapman's latest thriller, a disgraced cable news producer and a reporter from a small online neighborhood news outlet team up to find the connection between two seemingly unrelated murders (First Legacy Publishing, $16.99).

A Convenient Villain: Charles A. Lindbergh's Remarkable and Controversial Legacy Preparing the U.S. for War *by Dr. Jonathan Reich '85.* Reich combed through extensive archives to document the life and legacy of one of the most enigmatic and important political figures of the 20th century (AuthorHouse, $30.99).

A Solitary Wife and Other Stories *by Lloyd Lim '87.* Lim's second collection spans multiple genres, including crime noir, science fiction, romance, tales about ordinary people and even a one-act play (Outskirts Press, $12.95).

The Cloven: Book Two *by Garth Stein '87.* The second part of Stein's funny, dynamic sci-fi graphic novel series about James "Tuck" Tucker, a genetically modified human/goat hybrid conceived in a lab in the Pacific Northwest (Fantagraphics Books, $24.99).

The Uniform *by George Guida '89.* Guida's novel, about Alfie Bagliato, a boy from an old-world Italian-American family who dreams of a better life and ultimately

becomes a cop, opens with the 1968 protests at Columbia (Guernica Editions, $21.52).

Immortal: A Novel *by Ken Cavazzoni '91.* In this first novel by Cavazzoni (a former Major League Baseball player with the Cincinnati Reds), a premier athlete feels pressured to be much more than a sports hero (Koehler Books, $19.95).

The Art of Privilege *by Carey Keith Green '91.* Green's third novel features a detective investigating the murder of a wealthy Wall Street banker and his stripper girlfriend, which leads to a spiral of insider trading, blackmail and deceit (Rare Bird Books, $20).

The Book of Love *by Kelly Link '91.* Link, an award-winning short story author, makes her novel debut in this magical tale of three teenagers who return from the dead and become pawns in a supernatural power struggle (Random House, $31).

International Law and Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons *by Grant Dawson '95.* Following the two world wars, governments disposed of chemical weapons in the oceans; Dawson analyzes the legal issues still involved and offers potential solutions (Oup Oxford, $28.67, Kindle edition).

When Women Ran Fifth Avenue: Glamour and Power at the Dawn of American Fashion *by Julie Satow '96.* A stylish portrait of golden-age department stores — Bonwit Teller, Lord & Taylor and Henri Bendel — and the visionary women who led them (Doubleday, $32.50).

Meet Me in Miami: 1,000 Deliveries in the Magic City *by Charles (Ayres) St. Anthony '00.* St. Anthony shares his time as a delivery man in the Sunshine State, and considers the stream of bizarre news stories that gave rise to the "Florida Man" phenomenon (I.G. Studios, $14).

Max in the House of Spies: A Tale of World War II *by Adam Gidwitz '04.* A young German Jewish boy, shipped out of Berlin to London on the Kindertransport, becomes a British spy with the help of two small spirits (Dutton Books for Young Readers, $18.99).

Mother Doll: A Novel *by Katya Apekina '05.* In this meditation on motherhood, identity and war, a pregnant woman gets a strange call from a psychic medium with a message from her long-dead great-grandmother, who was a Russian revolutionary (Harry N. Abrams, $28).

A Shark Ate My Bagel: How We Built Bantam Bagels, A Memoir *by Elyse Oleksak '07.* Oleksak, whose company was featured on *Shark Tank*, *Today* and Oprah's list of "Favorite Things," offers advice on how to start, market and grow a business (Elyse Oleksak LLC, $12.99).

Call Me Roberto: Roberto Clemente Goes to Bat for Latinos *by Nathalie Alonso '08.* Alonso's second book is an inspirational portrait of Clemente, who endured years of discrimination to become one of the greatest baseball players in history (Calkins Creek, $18.99).

The Formula: How Rogues, Geniuses and Speed Freaks Reengineered F1 into the World's Fastest Growing Sport *by Joshua Robinson '08 and Jonathan Clegg.* *Wall Street Journal* reporters Robinson and Clegg detail how Formula One racing saved itself from collapse and conquered America through guile, fearlessness and reinvention (Mariner Books, $29.99).

The Stone Home: A Novel *by Crystal Hana Kim '09.* In Kim's coming-of-age story, a dark corner of South Korean history is revealed through the eyes of a small community living in a reformatory center (William Morrow, $30).

Morning After the Revolution: Dispatches from the Wrong Side of History *by Nellie Bowles '10.* In this irreverent and insightful debut, journalist Bowles questions whether the progressive movement she knows and loves is actually helping people (Thesis $30).

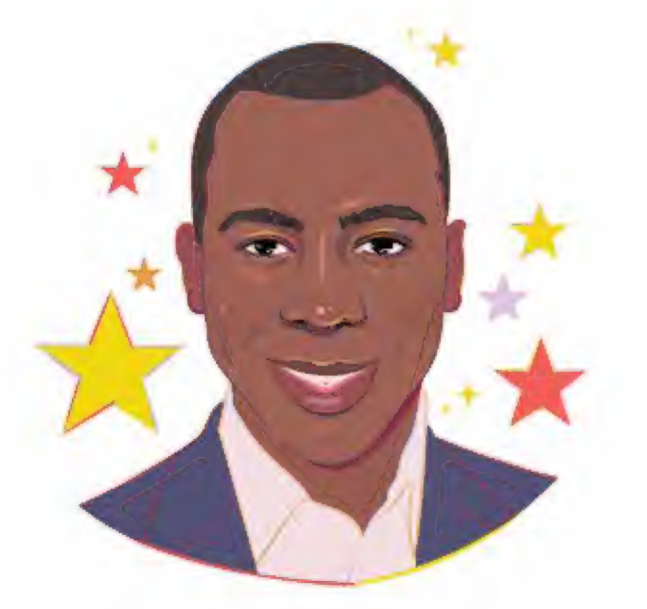
You Get What You Pay For: Essays *by Morgan Parker '10.* Parker's deeply personal collection examines America's cultural history and its effect on the mental well-being of Black Americans through the ages (One World, $28).

Saturn Returns *by Charline Tetiyevsky '12.* The latest collection of poems by Tetiyevsky explores the astrological concept of the Saturnic return, a heralding of adulthood signaled by the roughly 29-year path that Saturn takes to travel around the sun (Potato Chip, $10.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

lions

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09 // Illustrations by Mallory Heyer



Lamar Richardson '15

Last year was a big one for actor and Broadway producer **Lamar Richardson '15;** he nabbed a 2023 Tony nomination for co-producing *New York, New York* and co-produced the mega hit *Merrily We Roll Along*.

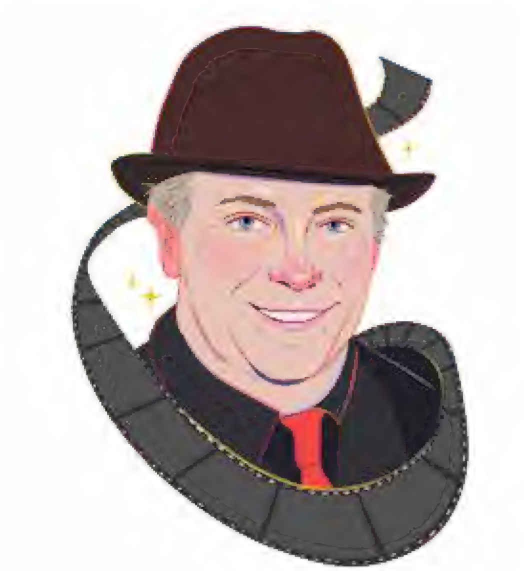
Richardson also has a packed schedule this year, having co-produced this spring's highly anticipated revival of *The Wiz* (starring Wayne Brady in the title role) and a new musical slated for release later this year, *Smash,* based on the TV show of the same name. And he'll make his feature film debut this summer in *The Fabulous Four,* a comedy starring Susan Sarandon, Bette Midler, Megan Mullally and Sheryl Lee Ralph.

At the College, Richardson was active in the Black Theatre Ensemble (he credits performing in Adrienne Kennedy's *Funnyhouse of a Negro* for igniting his passion for theater); after graduation he began making minor television appearances and working in regional theater.

"There's nothing like the instant gratification of performing in front of a live audience and getting their visceral, authentic reaction," he says. "I love that theater is a place for everyone to come into one cohesive space and to have a mirror turned on society."

That passion led Richardson to explore a new career in 2020: Broadway producer. He has now worked on five productions, landing a string of hits right away. "To have gotten that recognition right out of the gate is just really humbling," he says. "It's opened the door to so many more opportunities."

Working as a performer and as a producer has given Richardson a wide-ranging perspective on the industry: "Media and art as a whole is important; it exposes us to different cultures, backgrounds and experiences," he says. "I think there's great value in all of it."



Tim Kennelly '87

"It's always unpredictable enough to be interesting!" says **Tim Kennelly '87** about his career behind the scenes in Hollywood. Kennelly is a projectionist for Paramount Studios and chief projectionist for the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. As an expert in screening delicate 70mm film as well as newer digital technologies, he says there's always something new to keep things fresh.

Last summer, that included a 10-week run screening *Oppenheimer* in 70mm film. The classic format — a type of wide, high-resolution film — has experienced a recent revival in specialty theaters around the country. Kennelly estimates he projected the eventual Best Picture winner nearly 100 times. "Celluloid film is a beautiful medium when it's well preserved and well presented," he says. "I kind of chafe at any representation of film as a scratchy old shaky thing, because when done right, it can look beautiful and spotless.

"It's a mortal medium, so it takes care to preserve — I love the physical interaction of working with film prints, and I really love showing people how great it can look."

But it isn't all traditional film techniques for Kennelly; his day-to-day involves lots of newer technologies, too. On any given day at Paramount Studios, he might screen dailies for a work in progress; run a marketing screening for influencers or critics for an upcoming movie; project a film that the Acquisitions Department is thinking of buying; or, during Emmy nomination season, facilitate "For Your Consideration" showings (screenings of television episodes that are vying for Emmy noms, usually accompanied by panel discussions with shows' creators and casts).

"I don't think it's two opposing things, 'film versus digital,' because they're both worth preserving, and they both have incredible capabilities," Kennelly says. "Let's keep them both around for many years!"

Julie Raskin ’08

Are you curious about composting? Radical about recycling? Craving a cleaner city? **Julie Raskin ’08,** executive director of NYC’s Sanitation Foundation, just might have solutions for you.

The Sanitation Foundation is the official nonprofit partner of the New York City Department of Sanitation, with a mission to reinforce the work of DSNY and reduce waste sent to landfills. “We’re really able to expand upon what DSNY can do,” Raskin says, “to cast a wider net and support everything that it’s doing on the operational side with the public engagement piece.”

The foundation’s public engagement efforts have been felt all around the city thanks to numerous outreach events. It runs the NYC Trash Academy (an educational series) as well as an array of NYC Waste Workshops (public events) designed for New Yorkers interested in creating a more sustainable city. There’s also the DSNY Tool Loan/Cleanup Program, which loans out brooms, shovels, rakes, bags and gloves for neighborhood cleanup projects.

In addition, the foundation hosts large-scale community clean-up events such as September’s Great Broadway Sweep, during which more than 500 volunteers cleared nearly 2,500 pounds of litter from Broadway over the course of a week. In April, the foundation launched its newest initiative, the NYC Big Spring Clean, which encouraged neighborhood organizations, corporations and schools to work together to clean litter across the city during Earth Month.

“We’re an organization that enables New Yorkers to get involved in sanitation work, and to really help the Sanitation Department work toward its goals of a cleaner and more sustainable New York City,” Raskin says.

Ronen Glimer ’96

For many artists and collectors, finding community — whether it’s buyers or fellow creatives — can be a challenge. In 2003, **Ronen Glimer ’96** and his partner, Amy Abrams, envisioned a solution: a central space where artisans could come together en masse, attracting larger crowds and more eyes on their goods. Thus, Artists & Fleas was born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Locally made goods, handcrafted jewelry, vintage records and dozens of other crafts can all be found in one place, with makers showcasing their wares in pop-up stalls each weekend.

Twenty years later, the concept is thriving, with additional locations in Manhattan’s Chelsea Market and in Venice, Calif., providing a home for more than 200 independent makers, creators and collectors. “We’ve created a venue, a platform and an opportunity for people to not only be in business for themselves, but also to connect with other individuals who share their beliefs, or who support them — and do so in person,” Glimer says. “That’s pretty cool!”

Glimer is the chief operations officer of Artists & Fleas (Abrams is CEO); a big part of his work is building “catalysts for creativity and commerce” in each location, so that creative individuals can be in business for themselves. In an age where cheap, anonymous, mass-produced items can be bought online, he wants to ensure there are in-person spaces available where artists can showcase their unique crafts and goods, and where local buyers can find handmade works that speak to them.

Says Glimer, “I think a big part of what fuels this business — and fuels my day-to-day — is keeping cities interesting, keeping them thriving, and to be a place of community and opportunity for creative individuals.”

*class*notes

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

The Thinker has inspired College students for nearly 100 years; the contemplative bronze was installed on campus in 1931.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of *CCT* prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of *CCT*, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT online and in archives.

1945–55

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Congratulations to **Clarence B. Jones '53,** who on May 3 was awarded a 2024 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President Biden. The announcement noted: "Clarence B. Jones is a renowned civil rights activist and lawyer who helped draft Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech. Jones was instrumental in preserving Dr. King's legacy and remains an outspoken force against hate."

In presenting the award, Biden said of Clarence: "Born in Philadelphia, the cradle of our democracy, Dr. Clarence B. Jones wielded a pen as a sword and gave words to the movement that generated in freedom for millions of people. A speechwriter for and lawyer for Dr. King, he helped define the enduring ideas included in the 'Dream' that will be engraved in the ethos of America. ... Thank you, Dr. Jones."

Edward Cowan '54 shares news of a classmate's passing: "**Brian Tansey '54** died on Jan. 31, 2024, in Cincinnati from complications following surgery to repair a hip broken in a fall. He was 91 and had been living in a senior community for a few years. Brian, whom I met when we were both denizens of Hartley Hall, had a bifurcated career, initially as a Presbyterian pastor and later in service to seniors. After graduating, Brian enlisted in the Army and served three years. In 1958, he entered Louisville (Ky.) Presbyterian Theological Seminary. By the summer of that year, he was a student pastor at a small-town church in far southeastern Kentucky, where I visited him.
"Some years later, dissatisfied with the way the Presbyterian hierarchy was responding to him, Brian removed his clerical collar and turned to senior services — long-term healthcare, nursing home administration, community services. When Brian retired a second time, he returned to religion and wrote a commentary on the Gospel according to John. In 2004, after I saw the Mel Gibson film *The Passion of the Christ,* I discussed the story with Brian. He gave me deeply informed answers, including comparisons of John to the other Gospels.

"Brian was born in Cincinnati, a traditionally Republican city, and emerged an ardent Democrat. Of late, he felt the Democratic party had turned to the right under President Clinton, abandoning its roots.

"Brian is survived by four daughters, three by a first wife and one, Eira Tansey of Cincinnati, by a second marriage."

CCT has learned of the April 17, 2024, passing of **A. Stephen Passloff '54,** VPS'58, a physician who lived in New York City. An obituary will appear in the Fall 2024 issue.

Gordon Silverman '55, SEAS'57 writes, "Still active: emeritus professor of electrical and computer engineering. Most recent assignments: AI, and 'Computer Systems, Organization and Design,' teaching at Manhattan College."

Please share your news and updates with us and your classmates.

1956

Robert Siroty
rrs76@columbia.edu

Bob Lauterborn is halfway through his term as president of the University of North Carolina Retired Faculty and Professionals Association. He has visited Antarctica (his seventh continent, which I must admit I did in 2007) and Alaska, his 50th state.

Ralph Kaslick DM'62 continues to chair the Visiting Professor Program at the College of Dental Medicine. This yearlong program is intended to raise awareness of contemporary issues in dentistry. During this past year, Dr. Thomas E. Van Dyke, SVP at the ADA Forsyth Institute and a professor at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, was invited to work in investigation of finding a cure for oral microbial diseases. Ralph has also been president of the Lyceum Society of the New York Academy of Sciences, a group that comprises the academy's retired and semi-retired members.

Bob Siroty continues to serve on the Advisory Council of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University, which has a full schedule of online and in-person courses that meet weekly (no blue books, papers or exams).

Sadly, must report the passing of **Ron Kapon** BUS'57, a world-renowned oenophile, in November 2023. Ron was a strong supporter, among other ventures, of the Class of 1956 and Lions basketball. He was a civilian liaison for the community with the NYPD and a member of the faculty at Fairleigh-Dickinson.

Must also report the passing of **Gerald Fine,** in December 2023. After graduation, Jerry went to dental school and later specialized in orthodontics, practicing on Long Island.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct, for more on Gerald.]

Please keep the info flowing.

1957

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Thank you to the following alumni, who responded to our call for news and updates.

Mac Gimse writes about his latest sculpture, *Striving for Peace On Horizon's Brim,* on the St. Olaf College campus in Northfield, Minn. "'Horizon' was a project that began in 2009 with sculpture and poetry as part of a Nobel Peace Prize Forum on campus. As a large public art sculpture, it took many paths before finally being installed in February 2023. It is built of stainless steel to last many generations of students and will easily outlive me. I taught sculpture and architecture at St. Olaf since 1970, and led several dozen groups of students around the world teaching 'Monuments to Power and Faith.'

"There is an Art Endowment Fund given by St. Olaf alumni for students and faculty to create a Striving for Peace Garden using all of the fine arts in their presentations, which will go on in perpetuity."

"I visited Columbia from Minot, N.D., when I was 14, during the first year Grayson Kirk was president, and did not dream of going there. As [I was] a National Scholar, Columbia taught me that the purpose of a liberal arts education was to take a love of learning into life, and that lesson carried through my whole career."

Read more about "Horizon" online at wp.stolaf.edu/flatenartbarn/striving-for-peace-on-horizons-brim. Mac also submitted a poem.

Striving for Peace on Horizon's Brim

If peace is a form of ultimate
human understanding,
before I pass into the heart of
God's surrounding,
I want to plunge my head into
seas of language
and drink from every tongue only
the words
of kindness. Then with the taste
of love in
my mouth, I want to whisper
silence on
wars of shouting, at children of
abuse,
on races from hatred, between
embittered genders, within
unrighteous religions,
and by angered nations.
Striving for peace on horizon's brim.

If peace is death, as in rest in peace,
before I lie_down underground
to cease,
I want to swaddle myself_in
unfamiliar
clothing and nestle into the smell of
fresh dug earth next to the stones
and bones of forgotten peoples.
Then I want to run my fingers
through the silt of their sorrows
and quench their mourning thirst
for those innocents_who were shed
on never-gain fields for letting blood.
Striving for peace on horizon's brim.

If peace is kindled in children,
our progeny,
before I garland my soul with
bouquets of eternity,
I want to spill my seeds of final
begetting into the
roots of the mercy tree, from which
hangs the
last unsightly corpse of human harm.
And for
yet unborn, I want to feel their
blood flowing
through my flanks that will
soak tomorrow
in the deep red, ages past of all
our origins,
making us **one** human flesh.
Striving for peace on horizon's brim.

If peace is a form of tradition-passing,
before I give up my most
prized possessions
of hair and teeth, of flesh and breath,
before I let
go of hordes of family and hugs of
friends, I want
to squeeze my soul through the
martyr's throat
to feel words of compassion as
spoken by
the lips of mercy, knowing that flashes
of anger can never be retrieved.
Striving for peace on horizon's brim.

If peace is to quell all forms of
violence against
nature and against us as humans,
our pathway to
peace can become a reality,
knowing that acts
of violence cannot be simply
washed away.
Then I want to sing out to the whole
world the sweet sounds of
bearing the burdens of peace
using YOUR impressions,
not just my own,
of **how,**
and **why,**
we live.
Striving for peace on horizon's brim.

Robert Alter writes, "During the last six months [as of April], I have

Submit a Class Note or Photo

CCT welcomes news, updates and photos from Columbia College alumni.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

SUBMIT A PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni for Class Notes, and one for Just Married!, as long as the alum is a member of the couple.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

published two books: a biography of the Israeli writer Amos Oz and a memoir, *A Writing Life*."

Richard Berger, who lives in Los Angeles, writes, "Having moved to California 20-plus years ago, it seems I'm a Californian even though I was born in NYC. I never married. I keep up with Columbia via *Spectator* (of which I'm an alum), and follow the sports teams as best I can."

Erich Gruen writes, "Time moves all too quickly at this stage of life. Good friends who enriched our lives for many decades now disappear every year, sometimes even more frequently. I have spoken at too many memorials. But I console myself with the thought that those who have departed enjoyed long, productive and rewarding lives.

"I stave off the grim reaper by keeping myself busy. A new book of mine will appear this year, at about the time when I will welcome a second great-grandchild. I get invitations to speak at universities or conferences from time to time. And I offer an adult education course in Berkeley every spring that provides considerable stimulus (at least for me). Two classmates have attended those classes (remotely), **Ron Kushner** and **Joe Diamond,** much to my delight. And I do keep in touch with two others, **Bob Alter** and **Alvin Kass.** For the most part, the distance and the scattering prevent frequent contact. But the Columbia years remain a vital part of my life."

CCT is sorry to report the passing of **John F. Mathews** and **Ira N. Silverman.** Please go to "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Please share your news and updates with us and with your classmates.

1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

Let's start with some good news: The women's basketball team has done it again! For those of you who don't follow Columbia sports that closely, it's been a long time since the Columbia men's basketball team has won an Ivy League championship (1968, to be exact) and to make the good news even sweeter, it's the second year in a row the women have done it! And as this issue goes to press, we've learned that they have received a bid to play in the 2024 NCAA Tournament. The last time a Columbia team did that was (you guessed it) 1968. So, hats off to the women, and best of luck in the days ahead.

More on the good news front: **Bill Claire** writes that Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.), At-Large Representative, placed his poem "The Heartbeat of Cape Henlopen Park" in the Congressional Record on April 19, 2023. In doing so, Rochester commented, " … it was an honor to share your poem with the American people. It is a reminder to all of us to treasure and protect our coastlines."

Bill notes that it is "most unusual to receive this kind of recognition for poetry in Washington, where I was involved in public service for more than 50 years. I also had a dual career in both the literary and antiquarian book worlds. During the last year I happened to be a modest activist in opposition to developers who wanted to start a restaurant in our historic state park." That occasion prompted Bill to send his poem celebrating the park to Rochester. He adds, "Speaking of an earlier D.C. era, I had a nice relationship with **Bernie Nussbaum** there. I'm also reminded that it's been more than a half-century since I started arguing with roommate **Ron Szczypkowski.** We still disagree about everything but were both happy that Claude Benham '57 was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame last October.

"In my later life, I had major personal and professional ties with Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920 and Richard Neustadt."

I will close Bill's interesting contribution with the words of Rochester: "It is my sincere hope you will continue to inspire others with your beautiful poetry."

On that, we all can agree!

Joe Dorinson brings us up to date on his activities (and those of other classmates as well): "**Harvey Feuerstein** hosted **Mark Weiss; Shelly Raab; Ernie Brod** LAW'61; **Marty Silver** (né Silverstein); and yours truly at the Harvard Club on Nov. 8. We recalled our salad days at Columbia over a delicious meal, leavened by heady discourse on many things, cabbages and kings. Deeply concerned about the horrific events in the Middle East and the hostile demonstrations on campus, we agreed to voice our displeasure with the new administration."

Since then, Joe has added that "to think of our usually quiet campus now under siege by Hamas apologists is too awful to contemplate."

We hope that by the time this issue is delivered to alumni, both the Middle East, and our campus, will be quieter places.

We started this column on a happy note, but we are ending it on a sad one. Another one of the leaders of our class, **Peter Gruenberger** LAW'61, died, on March 6, 2024. After graduating from the Law School, he became an outstanding corporate litigator and lead counsel on several important cases. But he always had time for his family and for Columbia. He started a family scholarship fund and was active in alumni affairs and class reunions. For the last 20 years Peter even hosted a Class of '58 monthly poker game (though "outsiders" had to be admitted when attrition took its toll) and which I was (usually) pleased to participate in. A life truly well lived. Condolences to his wife, Carin, and their extended family. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1959

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

By the time you read this our 65th reunion will have come and gone. I hope that it was successful, and I encourage you to plan to attend our 70th reunion in only five years.

Joseph Ramos SEAS'60, SIPA'64, GSAS'68 writes, "I hold a B.A. from Columbia College, a B.S. from Columbia Engineering, was an international fellow at SIPA, 1963–65, and hold a Ph.D. (economics) from GSAS. Difficult to be more Columbia. I am now a member of the board of the Columbia Global Center Santiago; I have resided in Chile since 1968, when I arrived as a visiting professor. I am now professor emeritus at the School of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Chile. Though I am an economist (indeed my peers honored me in 2020 as Economist of the Year), my avocation is philosophy. Indeed, in December 2023, just as I turned 85, I published a book on the existence of God, *Belief or Unbelief: The Mystery of God in the Light of Reason.* Its Spanish version (2022) was well received by academics and the public at large in Chile and is now in its third printing."

From **Jim Levy** GSAS'61, "… are some thoughts on the influence of Columbia College on my life.

"We have reached the Age of Sorting Things Out, so here are four ways in which Columbia affected my life.

"First, the Core Curriculum. It taught me how little I knew. And gently, it opened my mind to so much. For example, the readings in CC (both years), and the syllabus for Humanities A and B. I became a professional historian, and the Core guided my thinking about education and why history is the foundation from which we build an understanding or misunderstanding of ourselves. Herodotus and my tattered Thucydides, purchased at Salter's, are still on my bookshelves. And so is Augustine's *City of God,* where I encountered an argument for a just war. Honestly, most of it did not stick in my 18-year-old head but I never forgot who was on the reading lists. Long live the Core!

"Second, our teachers. The men (yes, only men in those days) who stoked my interest in the past: Richard Morse in Latin American history, Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54 in U.S. history and most important to me, Walter Metzger GSAS'46, who made me think about the relationship of history to the social sciences. But I must acknowledge some other staff members who, thankfully, patiently suffered my ignorance and enriched my imagination: Among them are Edward Le Comte '39, GSAS'43; Steven Marcus '48, GSAS'61; George Knobbe; Robert Belknap SIPA'57, GSAS'69; and Marvin Harris '49, GSAS'53.

"Third, Columbia's location in Manhattan. I (we) had the privilege of being at university at the zenith of New York's power and influence in the world. It was the beating heart of the 'American Century' — oozing wealth, culturally vibrant, subways packed Saturday nights through early Sunday mornings, the 'twofers' allowing us to see shows on Broadway and Off- and to watch ice hockey at Madison Square Garden for 75 cents! Who in their right minds would not

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary
VPS	Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

have wanted to be at university in New York during the 1950s? Think Comden and Green, Rodgers and Hammerstein. And Leonard Bernstein and *West Side Story.*

"Ah, there's a different voice. Underneath the sheer joy and energy of Manhattan lay growing tensions: whites, Blacks, Latinos rubbing irritably against each other, the New York Giants and Brooklyn Dodgers abandoning their hallowed grounds for Pacific gold, and the commanding heights complacent in their authority until one day mighty Gotham threatened bankruptcy. By then, I, too, was elsewhere.

"Fourth, Barnard College, where I met the lovely Valerie Brussel BC'61, married her after graduation in 1959 and helped to produce two boys, one of whom is now in New York producing plays including *Come from Away* and *Six the Musical,* while the other resides in Sydney, a block from Bondi Beach, after a career in Hong Kong as manager of a hedge fund. Sydney? In 1973, we moved there to take up a position in Latin American history at the University of New South Wales for three years, after which we planned to return to the United States. As one says in the Empire, 'We just stayed on.' Happily."

Lou Stephens writes, "I have prepared and will finally have printed a booklet on my art. This includes about 15 images of my work including a self-portrait, a bio, my thoughts about art coupled with each image and an appendix referencing items in the text. Since I was born and raised in Mexico and met and socialized with many known artists there, I speculate that this will be an interesting project to view for those interested in art. If any of you '59ers have friends or connections to the New York art world, please let me know (luistephens@yahoo.com)."

We hear from **Steve Buchman** LAW'62, "Since graduating, I followed the traditional path of a New York attorney, first joining a small firm, and when it dissolved, moving to a larger one with its attendant responsibilities and opportunities. I retired in 1992, having spent a bit of time thinking about a second career. After some searching, it turned out to be as a career counselor at the Law School, where I've been since 1994.

"My hope was to make the law school experience, and the transition to practice, easier for today's students than it had been for me in 1962. My time at the Law School had been as fraught and miserable as my time at the College had been exciting and positive. My counseling experience at the Law School has brought my appreciation for that institution back into a much more balanced perspective and I still counsel there one day a week (and more when needed). For quite a few years, up until about five years ago, I was also the ombudsman at my former law firm. Until asked to be its ombuds, I didn't know what an ombudsman did, or was (an off-the-record issue resolver and sounding board). It turned out to be particularly rewarding work and complemented my law school counseling.

"Being on campus allowed me to stay in touch with Columbia and its transitions since 1959 in a way I wouldn't have thought possible. It included engagement with the Columbia College Alumni Association and, of course, the fencing program that had been so pivotal to me as an undergraduate. Being involved in our last three reunions was a terrific way to stay in touch with classmates, and with those decades-old memories we all have of the Morningside campus. My warmest wishes to all classmates, wherever they are."

Jerome Charyn is "currently working on a novel about Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR and Missy LeHand, the President's private secretary 1933–40. Most of the novel will take place at the Little White House in Warm Springs, Ga., where FDR had once been a polio patient."

I have also received notes from **Gerald Friedland, Charles Rabb, Bruce Schlein** and **Steve Trachtenberg,** which I cannot include here due to *CCT*'s space limitations. Check the column online at college.columbia.edu/cct for the notes from Bruce and Charles.

1960

Columbia College Today
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[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Robert Machleder** for his 23 years of service as class correspondent; what follows is his last column. Going forward, please send your news, updates and/or College memories to *CCT* at the email address above or by using the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Our last column reported **Larry Mendelson** BUS'61 having been awarded in September the prestigious 44th annual Howard Hughes Memorial Award from the Aero Club of Southern California for his leadership in the advancement of aviation and aerospace technology through his transformation of HEICO Corp. from a small provider of a few aircraft components into the highly diversified and expansive aerospace, defense and electronics company it is today. Numerous other awards and accolades received by Larry personally and by HEICO are notable.

Forbes Magazine cited HEICO as one of the 100 Best Small Companies 2012–14, as one of Most Trustworthy Companies in America and as one of the World's Most Innovative Growth Companies. In 2017 the highly regarded *Institutional Investor Magazine* named HEICO to its All-America Executive Team and named Larry the best CEO in the Aerospace & Defense Electronics sector.

As for personal accolades, on July 14, 2017, Bastille Day, Emmanuel Macron, president of the Republique Française, named Larry a "Chevalier" in the French Legion of Honor. Larry is also a trustee emeritus of Columbia University and a recipient of the 1999 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He continues to be the object of such plaudits, for on Jan. 19 he received the Kenn Ricci Lifetime Aviation Entrepreneur Award from Living Legends of Aviation.

Thad Long wrote that one of his courtroom drama novels, *The Impossible Mock Orange Trial,* was selected as October's book of the month by the Online Book-of-the-Month Club. "After approximately 100 reviews and ratings on Amazon Books, it received a composite rating of 4.3 out of 5.0. Although this personal injury/wrongful death case is a gripping novel with many unexpected twists and turns, it is also a serious and thoughtful study of justice in the local courts of the United States."

Frank Zmorzenski passed away in Florida on Nov. 3, 2023, of multiple health complications. As an NROTC student he was commissioned as an ensign upon graduation and then pursued a 30-year career in the Navy, attaining the rank of captain, and serving as commanding officer of three vessels: the *U.S.S. Meredith,* the *U.S.S. Edward*

McDonnell and the *U.S.S. Ajax.* He served with bravery and distinction and was highly decorated while serving in Vietnam as a U.S. naval adviser onboard a Vietnamese naval gunfire support vessel, and as an adviser to Vietnamese Navy Fleet Command. His numerous military decorations included Legion of Merit (two awards), Bronze Star Medal with Combat ‘V,’ Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Stars, Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Eight Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Vietnamese Staff Service Medal - First Class, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and Vietnamese Civil Actions Unit Citation.

An active participant in the monthly Class Zoom meetings, Frank is now sadly missed. [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries,” online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Now, prepare yourself for an intense heartbreaker. You may recall a Class Note in 2013 that Dr. **Paul Brief**’s book, *Hootch 8: A Combat Surgeon Remembers Vietnam,* had been published. Paul described the book as follows: “*Hootch 8* is a memoir of my experiences with the blood, the pain and yes, the humor of the Vietnam War in 1969–70. As a Navy orthopedic surgeon fresh out of residency training, I was assigned to the First Medical Battalion hospital in Danang, where my job was to treat Marines for injuries suffered in combat. There, I was one of six orthopods among other surgical specialties, and as incoming casualties were quite heavy, we worked feverishly and exhaustingly, day and night, for an entire year. Our hospital, a favored target, often came under heavy enemy fire, especially at night. All medical officers lived in wooden huts called hootches, and mine was Hootch 8. All proceeds from the book are being donated to various injured veteran charities.”

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

I can attest that Paul’s memoir is extraordinary.

Only recently, Paul learned of and shared with me a Vietnam-Class of ’60 connection that he had no knowledge of. It shocked me. Let Paul tell it.

“Reflecting upon our recent Class Notes, which were mostly of an obituarial nature, it occurred to me that many in our class may be unaware, as I was until recently, of the extremely untimely death of **Howard Gerstel** VPS’64.

“After VPS, Howard was drafted, then sent to Vietnam in 1967 as a U.S. Army medical officer.

“In Vietnam, Capt. Gerstel distinguished himself as an excellent physician, and by regularly and fearlessly going on jungle patrols with his men. During these outings he tended to the wounded and also ministered to needy Vietnamese civilian villagers. In the eight months he spent in-country, February–October 1967, he twice received the Bronze Star Medal, a decoration awarded for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement or meritorious service in a combat zone.

“On Oct. 4, 1967, his unit was ambushed, and tragically Capt. Gerstel was killed. He was 28.

“He was awarded the Silver Star Medal posthumously, and left behind his young wife, Barbara, as well as three little children.

“As I had lost touch with Howie after graduation, I was shocked and brokenhearted to learn of his death only in early 2022. With his wife’s permission I have now observed his *yahrzeit* twice and plan to continue doing so as long as the Almighty permits me. May his memory continue to be a blessing to his family and to all his Class of 1960 classmates.”

Overwhelmed by Paul’s narrative, I focused with a heavy heart on Howie’s photo in our yearbook, pondered the highlights and accomplishments in my life, and considered how very fortunate I have been — we all have been — to have made it to our octogenarian years.

1961

Michael Hausig
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Dave Furman is enjoying the many aches and pains to which his long tenure on this planet entitles him, but he remains very active.

In 2011, Bill Burley ’63 invited Dave and his wife, Carol, to join the Burleys on a bike tour in Italy. They so enjoyed the bike trip on rail trails through the Dolomite Alps that they began biking a lot more when they returned to the United States. As of February, Dave had biked more than 80 bike trails in 17 states and one province in Canada. His odometer read 20,518 miles!

Dave and Carol will spend the bulk of this summer at their secluded woods cabin in the Adirondacks. Because of foot nerve damage, Dave’s hiking days have ended, so they spend their time biking on little-used back roads, canoeing the area’s many lakes and streams, and loafing on the cabin’s screened porch. They also look forward to bike trips on the new Adirondack Rail Trail from Lake Placid to Saranac Lake, N.Y., and the Lamoille Rail Trail across northern Vermont.

Frank Lorenzo recently completed the book *Flying for Peanuts: How We Revolutionized the Airline Business,* about his airline days; it’s set to be released in September. It might be of interest to classmates, as, in addition to noting Frank’s airline experiences, it goes into his days at Columbia, both good and bad.

The book title originated from the very successful “Peanuts” (much lower) fares that his team originated in the late 1970s and approved as an experiment, before airline deregulation became law, thus allowing low unrestricted fares generally, as today.

Roger Panetta is involved in the project Shadows on Stone: Identifying Sing Sing’s Incarcerated, which seeks to uncover the hidden stories of those at Sing Sing 1865–1925 by transcribing the hand-written admission registers; the organization is seeking more volunteers (zooniverse.org).

Oscar Garfein VPS’65, BUS’97’s daughter, Dr. Jennifer Ashton ’91, VPS’00, HN’16 (now married to Tom Werner), was honored on March 6 at a gala in New York City as one of this year’s recipients of a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. She is the chief medical correspondent for ABC News (daily on GMA3). She has a son, Alex ’20, and a daughter, Chloe.

Bob Salman LAW’64 is actively involved in the 2024 election as a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. In addition to the presidential race, in New Jersey there is a fierce primary for the U.S. Senate in both parties and at least two contested primaries for the House; Bob is active in all these races. He is also chair in four active Financial Industry Regulatory Authority arbitrations. FINRA is a nonprofit that provides confidence to participate in the stock market by safeguarding market integrity.

Bob and his wife, Reva, will seek another term in the June Democratic primary as longtime members of the Monmouth County Democratic Committee.

Bob will discuss his projections for this year’s elections in our October Zoom class meeting.

My wife, JB, and I had lunch with **Jon Liebowitz** and his wife, Ruth, when they were in San Francisco in January to see their son and his family, who live in Cambodia but were here on a ski trip.

Alex Liebowitz (Jon’s brother) was here for five days of skiing with me in March.

Ira Weinryb SEAS’61 was listed in *Marquis Who’s Who in America 2022,* the Diamond 75th Edition.

Arnie Intrater LAW’64 died peacefully in his home in Boynton Beach, Fla., on Oct. 15, 2023. Arnie was born in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1939. The family escaped from Nazi Europe to Cuba, and Arnie attended the American School in Havana for two years, He was the first in the family to learn English.

In 1947, the family immigrated to the United States, settling in Forest Hills, N.Y. Arnie graduated from Yeshiva of Central Queens and Forest Hills H.S.

In 1964, he married Karen Adrienne Weill, and they moved to the Washington, D.C., area.

A true public servant, Arnie proudly served his country with dedication and integrity, quickly rising to leadership in the Office of the

General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, the White House Counsel office and as general counsel to both the Peace Corps and the Federal Housing Finance Board.

Arnie is survived by Karen; his son, Marc; his daughter, Michelle; and six grandchildren. A memorial service was held in Boynton Beach in October. A memorial service will also be held this summer in Harpswell, Maine, where Arnie enjoyed many summers. Donations in his name may be made to Magen David Adom (the Israeli affiliate of the International Red Cross; afmda.org). [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Adolf Frederick J. Toborg passed away on March 2, 2024. I don't have any details at this time but expect to have more information for the Fall 2024 issue.

1962

John Freidin
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Peter Berman GSAPP'69 entered Columbia in September 1958. But three years later, at the urging of his first-year design critics, Gerhard Kallmann and Michael McKinnell, Peter transferred to Cambridge University to study architecture. Kallmann and McKinnell had asked Peter to join them in the design competition for a Boston City Hall. Their design won, and the building was built. Peter studied at Cambridge for three years and earned a B.A. in architecture. He then returned to Columbia to get the American degree, required for registration in the United States. Subsequently Peter apprenticed with Marcel Breuer and Paul Rudolph and built his first building, in Peru, Vt. The story was published by *Architecture Forum,* and his career took off. "Since then," Peter writes, "I've been fortunate to work on several large projects, often in exotic places, including Chongqing, Cairo, Dubai and Riyadh.

"Large-scale buildings have always excited me, and the macrostructure I'm currently working on is no exception. It will stand atop a two-story underground garage: two 60-foot-wide parking lanes with columns and piers extending upward. At 1,260 feet it might be the longest building in the Western Hemisphere. It will be 120 feet wide, totally prefabricated, including kitchens, baths and cabinetry, and stand on a sloped site in Elkin, N.C. The structure begins at four stories at the top of the slope and stretches to a point 50 feet lower, making the building four stories at one end and nine at the other. Inside, two rows of apartments and hotel rooms face a skylit atrium; it is 30 feet wide and runs the full length of the building.

"The structure is built from a space-age lightweight composite that is shiny white. It is a million square feet in area but will cost just $250–$300 per foot to build due to its structural system and prefabrication. There will be 178 dwelling units, ranging in size from 1,800 to 2,700 square feet, and 224 hotel rooms, each 450 square feet. Every room will have a large terrace, and the roof will host three swimming pools. Views to the Blue Ridge Mountains will be spectacular."

Three additional landowners have expressed interest in constructing similar structures, and Peter hopes this building will be the prototype of many.

Richard Toder and his wife, Joan, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 14. They met on a Circle Line vessel, bringing them to a camp in Upstate New York, where Richard was a counselor and Joan was a counselor in training.

Since retiring from his interventional radiology practice at the start of Covid-19, **Steve Stein** has been lecturing at two Connecticut hospitals. His wife, Linda, and he "keep busy with kids and grandkids, theater locally and in NYC, and seeing friends (including **Art Levy**) for walks, movies and dining. We are active in our local conservative congregation, Beth El in Norwalk, and attend many Zoom meetings on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Sadly, we are repeatedly disheartened by acts of antisemitism happening locally, nationally, internationally and on U.S. college campuses, including Columbia."

Anthony Valerio's new book, *Confessions of an Aspiring Pornographer,* about his life in publishing, has been launched. He'd love to hear from classmates.

Last fall, as director of The Resnick Institute at SUNY New Paltz (for 35 years now), **Gerry Sorin** GSAS'69 coordinated a lecture series, "Israel at 75." The first lecture, on Oct. 2, went very well. The next, scheduled for Oct. 9 via Zoom from Israel, was postponed. "From there," Gerry reports, "the series went in directions we had no inkling of before it started. For those of us anxious, angry, sad or all of those things about what is happening in the Middle East, I recommend 'Israel Is Falling Into an Abyss,' a March 1 *New York Times* essay by Israeli novelist David Grossman.

"On a happier note, my book *Saul Bellow: 'I Was a Jew and an American and a Writer'* was published in April, almost simultaneously with Bellow's appearance on a USPS stamp!"

Daniel Stone says, "When not worrying about the unhappy state of the world, I indulge my hobbies of history and dance. I'm co-editor of *Jewish Life and Times,* a collection of essays about Jewish history around Winnipeg, Canada, and I am preparing for the 50th anniversary of the Village Green Morris Men, with whom I've performed for 45 years."

In order to pursue a mountain-climbing passion that started in California and continues in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, **Dick Schwartz** GSAS'67 has had his fourth joint replacement. He and his partner, Debra, are celebrating their 18th year together. They met in New Orleans in 2005, while doing Katrina relief work. Since 2009 Dick has maintained a blog that might interest other members of our class, online at bit.ly/4cF0vZT. And for the last five years he has been hosting a monthly roundtable discussion, "Literature at Lunch."

Geza Feketekuty has taken up sports for the first time, in his 80s. So far, he's completed one triathlon and two 5K running races. In all three, he finished second in his/our age group! He also participated in the three-day Florida Bicycle Safari. Bravo, Geza!

Our beloved classmate **Ed Pressman** passed away on Jan. 13, 2024. Ed grew up in Queens and graduated from Forest Hills H.S., as did Art Garfunkel '65. "The Sound of Silence" was sung at Ed's funeral.

In September 1959 Ed and **Phil Lebovitz** became roommates and remained close friends ever since. Phil remembers that "one of Ed's treasured memories was visiting my family in Memphis, where he encountered the remnants of Southern segregation and our family's Southern hospitality …. Classical music was Ed's passion; he introduced me to Carnegie Hall and for years sent me his favorite recordings. He greeted rock 'n' roll with explosive anger so I teased him by turning it up loud."

Ed was married and divorced twice. His children — Susan, Mark and Deborah — bore him six grandchildren. The love of his life, Marcia Gellert, filled his final 14 years with joy and love. They met at Westchester Community College, where they became members of the Collegium for Lifelong Learning. Almost immediately Ed was drafted to teach American history and then Broadway and classical music.

Marcia recalls: "Columbia was pivotal for Ed. It nurtured his love of learning, initiated lifelong friendships with a cadre of classmates and hooked him on attending Columbia athletics events. He served on committees, planned reunion activities, encouraged scholarship programs and spoke often of how Jim Shenton ['49, GSAS'54]'s Civil War seminar inspired his fascination with American history.

"Anyone who knew him knew how smart, funny and social Ed was. He loved talking about history, current events, politics, sports, and classical and show music. He was a Democrat with a capital D. When things were going politically wrong, he would always ask: 'What kind of society do we want?' He loved pens, notebooks, watches, books, attaché cases, popcorn, iced decaf, telling jokes, and most of all his family and schmoozing with anyone young or old about any subject."

Ed spent his career running his family's business, which supplied high-quality paper to the graphic arts community. In 1992 he sold the business and stayed on until retiring in 2009. For 16 years (51 issues), Ed was also our class correspondent. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Please go to this column online to read a note from **Roman Kernitsky.**

Also, please note my new email address: jfreidin@gmavt.net.

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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The Class of '63 Virtual Lunch continues to be popular, with about

20 classmates in attendance twice a month. We cover everything, including the existential threats to our Nation, World and Universe, but also find time to talk about the Dodgers, Giants and Yankees of our youth and all things Columbia sports.

Bob Heller writes, “Thank you to all those who have supported and prayed for me during my recent illnesses. I am happy to be home continuing to rehab and recover from severe impairment after three spinal surgeries and 132 days in the hospital and healthcare facilities to treat infections that had paralyzed me in November. That followed stomach surgery and 10 days in the hospital in early September. Extremely grateful for all the support I have received through this time and am blessed to have such a loving family and friends. Also blessed to have celebrated my oldest grandchild Madeline Hartog’s 21st birthday, her brother Cooper’s 18th birthday and my 82nd during this time. In June, my grandson, Felix Heller, turned 16 and his twin sisters, Ollie and Romy, were to celebrate their bat mitzvahs. I feel lucky to be alive and able to anticipate joyous moments ahead.”

Steve Stollman writes, “While I am in leafy Austerlitz, N.Y., now, bought out of our $127.50 rent-controlled apartment in the city, I am still connected in some ways. I am building a human/solar powered prototype of a pedicab, a business I began there 30 years ago, but which has degenerated into a tourist scam instead of the ‘serious transportation’ it was intended to be. The value of my efforts to sell ebikes in the 80s is also in trouble, as 60,000 food deliverers annoy pedestrians with their frantic efforts to get your food to you while it is still hot.

“My capture of the last of the original Horn & Hardart Automat fixtures, with the little windows, has led to an effort by me to update them, (theautomat.com) along with a terrific documentary about the subject now streaming. Now, a reconstituted train station in Pennsylvania might offer the opportunity to experience them again in working order. Yet, increasing automation might provide an enormous threat to a positive, functioning society.”

David Alpern writes: “As the son of a ‘girl singer’ on the road around the country and on radio in New York circa 1938–39, I was delighted with the offer to produce and host one of several evenings of live cabaret at LTV studios in East Hampton on June 29, starring veteran performers Steve Ross and Karen Murphy (online at bit.ly/3W0iOCO).

“It’s ‘Best of the Versed,’ celebrating the opening lines you might not know to songs you thought you did, the vibrant venue of verse in the Great American Songbook, tunes both familiar and obscure, but all with now rarely performed introductory verses.”

Michael Lubell writes, “A few snippets from my literary desk. The publisher of my 2019 book, *Navigating the Maze: How Science and Technology Policies Shape America and the World,* told me this week that there is interest in a second edition, updated to cover the last decade of American science and technology. The first edition came out several months before Covid-19 hit, and my speaking engagements in spring 2020 were canceled. Timing is everything! A new edition opens the door for new marketing.

“On the fiction side, I have completed the first third of my novel, *Dangerous Entanglements,* a story about an aging spy who is charged with disrupting a global conspiracy to overthrow the liberal democratic order around the world.”

Nick Zill writes, “I’m delighted to report the birth of a happy, healthy granddaughter, Amal Jeevanjee Zill, to my daughter-in-law, Dr. Sara Jeevanjee, and my son, Oliver Zill ’02 Ph.D., on July 5, 2023. Amal and her 3-year-old sister, Nyla, were triumphant outcomes of IVF pregnancies. Both girls are robust, inquisitive and sociable with great senses of humor. It amazes me to recall that they were once frozen embryos. At a time when IVF and other aspects of reproductive medicine are being called into question, these young ladies are delightful examples of the good that modern science can bring about when it is not hampered by religious strictures. I look forward to Amal being part of the Class of 2045.”

Lee Lowenfish continues his love of baseball in its many forms, not just on the field. He writes, “In late May Lee spoke again at the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture. He concentrated this year on more aspects of the career of baseball lifer George ‘Birdie’ Tebbetts (1912–99), whose unfulfilled desire was to have scouts eligible for Hall of Fame consideration. Birdie’s dream formed the prologue for his fifth book on baseball, *Baseball’s Endangered Species: Inside the Craft of Scouting by Those Who Lived It* (2023). Lee also taught another baseball-themed class in July in the Chautauqua Institution Special Studies Program. His favorite college sports remain Columbia baseball and women’s basketball. Lee ardently followed the women’s cagers during their second straight Ivy League co-championship. He was among the more than 1,000 fans who saw on Levien Gym’s scoreboard screen the Lions’ run to their first game in March Madness, which fell just short against Vanderbilt.”

On March 7, 2024, **Harvey Schneier** VPS’67 became likely the oldest grandfather of a first grandchild among classmates when his daughter Margo delivered Billie Louise Lukach. Mother and baby are doing well. Margo plans to return to her job as a public relations director at Gucci after parental leave. Husband Mike is a fund controller at Glendower Capital. Twin brother, Jon, is an elementary school teacher at Saint David’s School, on the Upper East Side, and older brother, Matthew, was recently appointed the chief restaurant critic and features writer at *New York* magazine. All children and their significant others reside in New York City (Manhattan and Brooklyn), with granddaughter only a short subway ride away from TriBeCa, where Harvey and his wife, Barrie Mandel, live.

Barrie is a residential broker for the Corcoran Real Estate Group. Harvey practiced general internal medicine at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital for 20 years before entering the pharmaceutical industry at Forest Laboratories in 1993. He retired in 2013 as executive director in clinical research, having led Phase 3 studies in multiple therapeutic areas. Harvey continues to consult in the pharmaceutical industry. March 2024 marked the four-year anniversary of his hospitalization with a life-threatening Covid-19 infection, from which he made an almost-full recovery.

Elliott Greher writes, “[As I write this] I will have the second insertion of stents to my heart’s four arteries on April 2. The previous one was successfully installed on March 5. Soon I have to replace the stent installed 24 years ago. I am also nearly two years into my third pacemaker, [originally] installed in 2000 as I was retiring from nearly 30 years as a federal civil servant (at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the agency that brought you the famous Three Mile Island incident).”

Jerry Kessler writes, “You are cordially invited to visit my new (virtual) museum, a collection of my music, writings, performances and photography: thejeromekessler collection.com. Enjoy!”

Please go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct for a note from **Peter Landecker.**

We have lost another classmate. **Roland G.F.J. Droitsch** died on Jan. 26, 2024 (see “Obituaries,” online at college.columbia.edu/cct). Rest in Peace, Roland.

We continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. (now during EDT). Let me know if you’d like to join us, and I’ll send you an invite. In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next. Stay safe, stay well!

1964

Norman A. Olch
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I am writing this column at the end of March, and it will appear in print after our late May reunion. If you attended, please let me know the classmates you saw, what you did and how you felt these many decades after graduation.

Wonderful to hear from so many of you.

Ed Waller writes from sunny Florida: “My wife, Laura, and I live in Tampa but have a second home in Rockland, Maine. I retired from my law practice in 2017. I am a trustee of the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland. Laura, who retired from her financial planning firm, is a full-time artist in Tampa and Rockland (laurawallerart.com). We have a daughter who owns and operates the premier bead shop in Laguna Beach; a daughter with a solo law practice in Fairfax, Va., who also is a stand-up comic on the Northern Virginia/D.C. circuit; and a son, who owns a financial adviser firm in Tampa. We have seven grandchildren but no room to describe their varied interests and locations, e.g., one in Florence, Italy, designing and making fine jewelry. Let us know if you are in Tampa or Maine — we could wax nostalgic about the theft of the fire chief's hat while he was fighting the New Hall fire."

Mark Rogers is celebrating the publication of the sixth edition of his eponymous book *Rogers Textbook of Pediatric Intensive Care.* In addition, he chairs a biotech company that is working with the National Cancer Institute to begin clinical trials on the brain tumor glioblastoma. "Working hard, living well," Mark says.

Bill Mitchell BUS'66 writes: "I am a member of Columbia Beta Alums. Since the Covid-19 shutdown we do a monthly Zoom call. This year in Vermont we will have our 25th consecutive mini-reunion celebrating the fall colors, hosted by Willard Brown '65. Signups so far are **Len DeFiore, Al Butts,** Fran Furey '66, Gene Chwerchak '65, Dave Filipek GS'67, Steve Danenberg '65 and Bob Donahue '63.

David Frank retired in 2014 after many years as a faculty member in the mathematics department at the University of Minnesota.

Howard Perlstein BUS'66 was a little too close to world events: "My wife, Linda, and I left Petra, Jordan, early on Oct. 7 on our way to cross into Israel via the southernmost Allenby Bridge when Hamas attacked and the borders closed. Safely returned home a few days later. Hope to visit a peaceful Israel and Middle East soon."

Michael Gunter SIPA'66 has been teaching political science at Tennessee Tech University since 1972. "My 23rd academic book, *Erdogan's Path to Authoritarianism: The Continuing Journey,* has recently been published. It has great endorsements. During 2023, I visited the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador), India and Iraqi-Kurdistan, where I gave a number of lectures on academic topics."

Michael Sklaroff recently retired from his law practice but he writes that "retirement" has been short lived. He is now executive director of the Pennsylvania Bipartisan Climate Initiative, a nonprofit with a mission to implement Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment through a coordinated public education effort aimed at mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. Mike has this message for his fellow Pennsylvanians: "The global climate crisis requires immediate action, and we can start here at home in our Commonwealth, where we produce more than 1 percent of global greenhouse gases annually. Thankfully, in Pennsylvania, we have a superpower in our Environmental Rights Amendment, stronger than in any other state in the country. Now, we need to implement the ERA throughout the Commonwealth to move the needle on climate change and safeguard the health of our communities, especially those historically overburdened. The ERA is surprisingly not well known in government or by the public. A superpower left on the shelf is not a superpower; this is where the Initiative comes in."

Gene Meyer has published *Hidden Maryland: In Search of America in Miniature,* a collection of 50 columns, features and profiles he wrote for *Maryland Life* magazine 2006–13. The pieces are updated and illustrated with images he took along the way.

Jeff Lass writes: "Unlike the swift passage of time, it feels like planets ago: the cafeteria, Ferris Booth Hall, The West End, the Core Curriculum — most of us who went to normal public high school were astounded. The relevance of our College degree is forever stuck in our brains.

"A personal comment about me and a great number of Columbia overachievers: I had no friends until I was 16. First real date (excluding high school prom) was when I was 23. I luckily got mutual life therapy when I married my only wife, Pat, when I was 37. Through her I now live in a three-dimensional world, with real people, real feelings. Columbia gave me the mental agility to be able to analyze and experience at the same time. Because of my incredible interaction with maybe 20 fellow students, we all have a treasure chest of an idyllic sheltered college life, not at all like most people, rare in America, and certainly the whole wide world of scarcity. So glad it didn't cost $70,000–$80,000 a year. Even in today's inflation you can't compare milk and egg price inflation with our $1,200-a-year tuition. I hope we're all above-average generous, happy and healthy, and since we can't take it with us, I know each of us is trying to give back and forward. Oh, my noteworthy achievements: I've written a lot of songs (sung by Madonna, Ice-T, my sister ... the list is endless)."

From **Richard Muller** in California: "I live in a big Berkeley brown shingle house, with my wife, Rosemary (married 57 years). The first floor is offices, my wife and I live on the second and my daughter, Elizabeth, her husband, Rahal (he's from Morocco), and two of my grandchildren (10 and 14) live on the third floor. The fourth floor is also offices.

"Why do we need so many offices? I am CEO of a startup planning to build and deploy a new configuration of a nuclear reactor. In 2022 I applied for patents on the design. In 2023, Elizabeth and I founded a company, Deep Fission, to obtain a license and build this reactor. We have received substantial seed funding from venture capitalists and others.

"The nuclear reactor fits in an 18-inch borehole, and operates a mile deep. The safety is incredible, but so is the low cost. Boreholes are much cheaper, per kilowatt hour, than large containment buildings and above-ground pressurizers. The reactor produces between 3 and 30 megawatts, and it looks like it will be cheaper per kilowatt hour than coal. That means that it might be adopted widely, even in the developing world. If so, then by replacing coal it is the ultimate reducer of global warming, far better (in my estimation) than a carbon tax.

"Life begins at 80!

"My best regards to the Class of 1964! I hope they are all having as much fun as I am."

1965

Leonard Pack
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Joel Berger responded to an item in my last column: "**Robert Kolodny**'s wonderful piece in the Winter/Spring 2024 issue filled me with nostalgia — and regret — over the worst course-selection mistake of my four undergraduate years at Columbia College.

"By my junior year I was getting a bit bored with taking courses solely at the College, and was diversifying by enrolling in classes at General Studies and Barnard. A GS course in the catalogue caught my eye, 'Sociology of Religion,' taught by a then-unknown woman named Susan Sontag. But for some long-forgotten reason it didn't fit into my schedule, and I wound up taking another GS sociology course that semester. Little did I know!

"As one who was destined to become a civil rights lawyer, deeply involved in political and social issues of the day, I'm sure I would have gotten to know Sontag better in the manner described by Bob in his piece. What a missed opportunity, one that I regret to this day. I had the privilege of studying with many other prominent professors at Columbia, but to have passed up a chance to get to know Sontag has always haunted me. I admire Bob for having had the experience and for sharing it with us."

Gene Feldman, who says he was "inspired by Class Notes about successful men still working at 80," shared this: "I am happy for classmates who, at 80, are still contributing to their fields and being honored by their colleagues. No doubt they find their roles fulfilling.

"A different approach to work has been rewarding for me, and perhaps some of you. I have worked in aerospace research, transitioned to patent practice (both in the corporate world) and finally taught AP physics in a suburban high school. All these positions were gratifying, yet would have been more so if corporations and schools were less bureaucratic.

"When the time was right, I retired, in 2012. Perhaps the best use of money is to buy freedom. Like many of you, I relish doing what I want, when I want. My dear partner, Maureen, and I live in a condo near New Haven. We continue to enjoy the museums and concerts that Yale has to offer, not to mention New Haven pizza.

"When I experience new art, music or literature, while nearby or traveling, I'm struck by how often my understanding and pleasure have been enhanced by my Columbia education.

"Although my means are modest, I have something that Zuckerberg, Musk and Bezos don't — enough."

I never have enough submissions from classmates, so if you feel inspired, act immediately on that impulse and send me your news!

Peter Levine GSAS'66 sent in this wonderful reminiscence: “Once upon a time and long ago, fall 1964, Ron Brookshire ’66, **Artie Greenspan,** Fran Furey ’66, **Peter Levine** and **Tom Sobel** moved into a fifth-floor apartment at 520 W. 110th St., two stores down from a local pizzeria run by two Greek guys. We maintained a running account for killer $1.00 pies and meatball sandwiches. All this a stone’s throw from the Moon Palace Chinese restaurant on the corner of Broadway, and just a block away from the long-departed and sorely missed The Gold Rail.

“No one will remember that Peter, Brooks and Fran ‘borrowed’ a sofa from Hartley Hall for the year, carrying it down Amsterdam Avenue in broad daylight. The sofa pulled together an otherwise rag-tag assortment of begged and borrowed furniture in our living room. Interior decoration? Eat your heart out, Martha Stewart! The apartment, in a pseudo–Beaux-Arts building, was spacious, with three bedrooms and a kitchen that clearly had never been renovated but that served Tom, our live-in cook, quite well. He rustled up delicious meals of hearty American fare every evening, Monday–Thursday. We had a schedule for washing dishes, but at least one of the roommates, whom shall remain unnamed (but whose initials are FF) often reneged on his task and duty.

“Brooks was captain of the ’65 football team in the fall and Fran, captain of the rugby team that spring. Greenspan, Levine and Sobel killed it playing midnight touch football on Low Plaza. Peter no longer rowed by then, although he still sculls today on the lake near his bungalow north of New York City.

“Levine married Gale right after graduation, in June 1965. His wedding was the last time, for a long time, that we were all together. It was not until November 2023 that the remaining roomies met in Sacramento, chez Tom, for our own Columbia reunion. We drank to Brooks, the missing member of the crew whom we all loved, had a New York-style pizza at Giovanni’s in East Sacramento (highly recommend), walked, reminisced and even listened to Peter sing ‘Sans Souci’ and ‘Roar, Lion, Roar.’ Including Brooks, we are the fathers of nine children and the grandfathers of 15, the latter ranging in age from 2 to 19.

“Some brief notes on our time post-college:

“Ron moved to California in 1973, went to work at Paramount and settled in Westchester, in Los Angeles County. He had two daughters, and adored them. Sadly, he passed away far too soon, succumbing to a heart attack in 2014.

“Fran, widely recognized as Columbia’s ‘whole man,’ the institution’s alleged educational mission, has been variously an actor, machinist, Peace Corps volunteer, warranty administrator for the San Francisco Municipal Railway and single parent to three boys. The dude loves to travel and is recently back from Provence. He speaks four languages!

“Artie taught French for 50 years, the last 40 at Colby College, where he established and led a junior year-abroad program, effectively swapping life in the woods of central Maine for the good life in France. Recently retired, he continues to split his time between Paris and Waterville, Maine, doing occasional translation work after having churned out a book a year for most of his career. He has a lovely apartment near the Bastille, which his ex-roommates know well.

“Tom has devoted his life to the law and his family. After earning a law degree at Boston University, he spent a year in the Vista program before co-directing the Housing Division of the Urban Law Institute at the George Washington University, where he earned an L.L.M. He moved to California, first to San Francisco and Bakersfield, and was directing attorney for Legal Services. In 1977, he headed north to Sacramento to join the nascent California Agricultural Labor Relations Board and raise a family. As the chief appellate attorney for the board, in its hectic, early days, and then as its longest-serving chief administrative law judge, his decisions effectively established a major part of agriculture law in California, some of which, in particular the law concerning union access to employers’ properties, has unfortunately been undone by the U.S. Supreme Court. He maintains a small arbitration practice. Peter spent 30 years teaching and writing American history at Michigan State University and directing the American Studies program. He is best known for two books: *Ellis Island to Ebbets Field: Sport and the American Jewish Experience* and *A.G. Spalding and the Rise of Baseball: The Promise of American Sport.* In 2000, he moved back to Brooklyn, where he was born and raised, and has ever since pursued a second career as a professional actor and playwright. For the moment, his unpublished plays and books far outnumber those that have made it into print.

“As you can see from the picture of us in this column online (college.columbia.edu/cct), none of us has aged at all — a tribute to our continuing friendship and our Columbia roots.”

Bill Hiney ’67 visited with roommates, former teammate and former bandmate Dean Mottard ’66, Gene Thompson ’66 and Paul Lenart ’67.

For notes about **Niles Eldredge** GSAS’69 and the late **LeRoy Euvrard Jr.,** please go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

1966

Martin Lee
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Hello, classmates. We have several respondents for this issue.

Dan Gover sent this story, titled “My Grandfather’s Store”:

“My grandfather Paul Harrison had a drugstore at 31 Canal St., on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, in the early years of the 20th century. Located a few blocks from the progressive Yiddish newspaper *The Forward*, the store was open on Saturday (Shabbos), and so the religious Jews in the neighborhood referred to it as ‘the Socialist store.’ My grandfather also sold schnapps (brandy) in the back room, which may have helped draw such local luminaries such as Emma Goldman, an anarchist leader; Sholem Aleichem, a Yiddish writer; and even Leon Trotsky, who was called back home by the Russian Revolution in 1917. My mother told me that they all passed through my grandfather’s drugstore.”

Joseph Albeck writes, “Still relatively healthy and happily married, my wife, Isabelle, and I enjoy time with our three children and four grandchildren, who all live close by. We play doubles tennis and do a bit of traveling, in addition to our regular visits to Isabelle’s numerous relatives in France.

“With the help of **Alex Auerbach,** I recently published an autobiography on Amazon. *Shaped By Shadows. A Psychiatrist and Poet Explores His Holocaust Heritage* is available in paperback and e-book formats. It begins with the stories of both my parents, who were married in the Warsaw ghetto in 1942 and survived deportation to a camp, escaping and hiding in Warsaw until liberated by the Russians in 1945. That history, as I gradually learned a few painful details, subconsciously shaped my personality and influences the key choices I made in my personal life.

“Much of my professional life was devoted to improving understanding of how traumatic events trigger emotions in parents’ lives, and how they are, or are not, transmitted to their children.

“I hope that some of my classmates will find the book informative.

“Let’s keep in touch while we can.”

Bill Hiney ’67 writes: “Had a wonderful trip to Cambridge, Mass., to visit roommates, former teammate and former bandmate **Dean Mottard, Gene Thompson** and Paul Lenart ’67. (See the photo in the Winter/Spring 2024 issue, Class of 1967 column.) We all lived at 560 W. 113th St., Alpha Chi Rho, from which civilized society gave us wide berth. For us it was the crucible from which a friendship developed that became a unique and lasting brotherhood. The shared ordeal of rigorous academic demands, the transition from the security of home and high school to independence and self-reliance, and add to that the demands of intercollegiate athletics and the legal drinking age of 18 molded us into the people we have become. Throughout the following 60-plus years, with lives going in many different directions at first, nothing changed among us. Dean flew helicopters in Vietnam, Gene went to Africa in the Peace Corps, Paul continued playing great blues guitar around the country. I joined John Burrows '66 and played folk-rock on the college circuit. Those lives have evolved to where we are now. But where we are now, as the dearest of friends; that has not changed and I'm very thankful for it."

Calvin H. Johnson had this to say: "When the moving van pulled up on April 26, I left Austin, Texas, where I had taught since 1981, and moved to Roland Park in Baltimore, on the next hill over from my doctor daughter, Martha, and crew, a block away from Johns Hopkins, an easy ride to the train to D.C. and the room where it happens, or a comfortable ride to Brooklyn or Boston.

"I had a good publishing year, three pieces described here, with arguments as inevitable as 2+3=5, but not yet taken up to victory. I submitted a Professor's *Amicus* brief to the Supreme Court in a current case, *Moore v. United States,* arguing that apportionment of direct tax by population was written to tax wealth by direct tax on the states using the labor of the population of a state to measure its wealth. The Framers assumed, without dissent, that there was a 'perfect proportion' between wealth and people. If the exact proportion did not hold, the tax was not a direct tax that needed to be apportioned. Apportionment of direct tax clause may never be used to invalidate any tax passed by the Democracy.

"In *Grading the Constitution on Slavery,* I argued that the Constitution's grade was 3.8 on a scale of plus to minus 10, that is, constructive, but not triumphant. The 3/5ths clause worked to benefit the North. Northern refusal to join into a covenant with slave states would not have freed the slaves.

"*Stop Location Subsidies* (Tax Notes) argued that subsidies, e.g., to locate a Tesla plant just outside Austin, are unconstitutionally unfair to fellow Americans. They add not one job, just move them around. Tesla should be given legal standing to stop them, because Tesla cares enough to put Elon Musk's face on its 93-foot statue of the 'Golden Oil Driller' in its losing effort to attract the plant.

"To come, I will give advice to the Treasury Department as to how to raise $3.5 trillion, starting in 2025 with plans to make the tax system fair, efficient and unavoidable. But never raise taxes."

David Tilman had this message: "We are getting close to our 80th birthday celebrations. The milestone requires significant retrospection on the eight decades of our lives.

"My beloved wife, Ellen, and I celebrated our 43rd wedding anniversary last April. We have three fantastic children: Avrum SEAS '04, Rabbi Howard and Alana. Avrum is a computer/IT professional for Bloomberg; Rabbi Howard is rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains, N.J., husband to Naomi, and father to Micah and Sophie; and Alana is associate director of Camp Ramah in Wingdale, N.Y.

"After 36 years, I retired as cantor and music director from Beth Sholom Congregation, Elkins Park, Pa. (the Frank Lloyd Wright synagogue), in 2011. Since then, I completed a five-year tenure as associate professor at the H. L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary. I am now in my 12th year as choir cirector and pastoral outreach professional at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park. I was an active participant in the Leonard Bernstein Centennial Celebration, as a consultant for the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History's Leonard Bernstein exhibition and as a lecturer on the Jewish contents of Bernstein's compositions for the Philadelphia Orchestra's Bernstein concerts. I continue to lecture on Bernstein's music in light of film *Maestro.* In April 2023, I conducted 175 singers in a concert of Israeli music on the Verizon Hall stage of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in celebration of Israel 75.

"We are in good health. Ellen insists that we take significant vacations to far-flung locations while we are mobile. We spent three Passover holidays in Europe, and completed recent trips to Panama and river cruises to Germany and France. This August we are going to Alaska.

"Fond regards to all '66 classmates, and special greetings to Glee Club alumni. 'Lift voices now in joyful song!'"

Speaking for myself: I invite any of our class to contribute something witty, sagacious or on how you spend your day.

Please stay well. Go Lions and Lionesses.

1967

Albert Zonana
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We heard from six classmates for this issue.

Jonathan Howland: "After 40 years of teaching and research, I recently retired from the Boston University School of Medicine. Ten of those years involved commuting to Sweden and Denmark, where I conducted randomized trials at Linnaeus University and collaborated with colleagues at the University of Copenhagen. I reside in Marion, Mass., with my wife, Elizabeth, and with children and grandchildren nearby."

Tom Hauser LAW'70: "My most recent book is a memoir, *My Mother and Me.* I began writing 47 years ago. It was the best decision I've made in my life, and this book (which touches on our years at Columbia as part of the journey) is particularly meaningful to me."

Philip Greco: "I admit I haven't been following either the progress of Columbia or my class for many years and haven't gone to reunions. Basically, I live in Philadelphia with my wife, Carol. We have been married 51 years and have two children and five grandkids. I have been retired from my private practice of psychiatry for 10 years, and my wife is a retired Realtor. I enjoy bridge (our son became a world-champion bridge player), computer games, reading and watching TV — obviously I'm not a great athlete!"

Bruce Donnell GSAS'70: "I am an opera stage director. I worked at the Met Opera for 17 seasons across a span of 34 years. I worked internationally and have a long history with the Santa Fe Opera. I have lived in Santa Fe since 1988. In a bit of a Columbia connection, I see Mark Rudd '69, who lives in Albuquerque, at Democratic political events. New Mexico is a great and blue place to call home."

Paul Brooke GSAS'72: "**Paul Gewirtz**'s note in the Fall 2023 *CCT* has prompted me to write. Thank you, Paul.

"For the bulk of my professional life, I have been in the investment business, the major part of which was as global head of health-care research and strategy at Morgan Stanley. Following Morgan Stanley, I sat on a number of boards, established and sold a company in medtech, and then founded and funded a strategic venture firm and hedge fund. Afterward, I was executive chair of a therapeutic company sold to AstraZeneca, on the board of a medtech company recently sold to Stryker and am now working to help fund and develop another medtech company.

"I have four children and one grandchild. They live in Maine, Los Angeles, Indiana and Montana. Watching them develop reinforces a sense of how fortunate I have been.

"As I reflect on my time at Columbia, I am deeply grateful for my teachers and for the Core Curriculum. That was reflected in endowing a chair in the Core. I cannot adequately convey the experience of Stephen Marcus '48, GSAS'61 teaching *Hamlet;* Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54, American history; Carl Hovde '50, American literature; and Meyer Schapiro CC 1924, Renaissance art. And as I watch the current global environment, I feel doubly fortunate. No university better prepares someone to be a citizen, to be broadly knowledgeable and to be sensitive to history. Jules Renard once wrote that some people's minds are so open, their brains fall out. Fortunately, the Core provides broad and diverse information. Judgment and perspective arise out of the Core. And in the current environment one needs to focus on dislocations — how our global debate has shifted from discussions of good and evil to debates of powerful and powerlessness — where power is bad and powerlessness is good. This is the intellectual issue that has driven changes at Harvard and Penn and from which Columbia was absent. If sunlight cures mold, one can be grateful to Trump for opening mold to sunlight, where the quality of intellectual diversity in the Core is both a culture carrier and creator providing a framework to manage conflict and envision creative thinking."

Ed Yasuna: "I live five houses from Nantucket Sound on Cape Cod in a restored 1911 cottage. I read lots (aka dozing), a mix of classic fiction, contemporary fiction and books about nature. I walk 1.5–2 miles most days. I'm in fairly good health (knock on the proverbial wood). I spend much time at the beach in summer. I putter in my gardens and three goldfish ponds. I collect white-line woodcuts and Studio Glass and am moderately active in a number of Cape and Worcester art museums. I seem to make a lot of short (one-to-four-day) road trips. I own one car, my fourth Miata, after the 1981 RX-7. My longtime (50-plus years!) relationship with my Ohio love has, sadly, faded due to differing interests and social/political values. I go to concerts at small venues, enjoying classic rock, blues, folk and classical. I volunteer at a nearby nursing home. I write, many letters and some non-fiction, some fiction. I watch lots of classic films and Bruins and Red Sox games. I don't allow mirrors in my home because some old guy keeps appearing in them. I remain a devout Columbia advocate and fan and am saddened that I am not in touch with former 'mates. Overall, my life is blessed, and I am quite fortunate."

Be well all of you, and do write.

1968

Columbia College Today
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Starting with the Fall 2024 issue, **Jeffrey Kurnit** will be the CC'68 class correspondent. Please send your news, updates, and thoughts on or memories from your time at the College to him via email, jeffkurnitcct@gmail.com, or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTES PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

Following are the notes *CCT* received for this issue.

Nigel Paneth writes, "I retired from full-time status as a professor at Michigan State University in 2021 and am now employed part time, allowing me to continue to direct or co-direct three NIH grants. I spent much of the last four years working with fellow physician scientists at Hopkins, Einstein and Mayo to first assess and then advocate for greater use of convalescent plasma early in the course of Covid-19. Between 2017 and 2021, we welcomed two grandsons and two granddaughters into the world, and the joy they bring is unmeasurable."

Steve Brown writes, "I'm still practicing law, though only part time, as I sold the practice to my younger partner in 2015 and he took over in 2019. Now I'm just an employee, but still enjoying handling employment rights cases for federal employees. Learned in April that several of our cases will be among the first tried at the EEOC in a 30,000-member class action for disability discrimination against the U.S. Postal Service.

"My stepson Matthew died suddenly of a heart attack in 2012 at 45, but now his daughter Sophia (16) spends lots of time with my wife, Judy, and me. I don't envy these high school kids and what they have to deal with these days.

"I enjoy ocean fishing — my brother and I went to Alaska for salmon and halibut last year, and caught our limit every day — and make yearly trips to Cabo for that with longtime friends. Since I only work part time, Judy and I have time to travel and do a good bit of that now.

"Hello to all my '68 compatriots!"

Russell Needham writes, "I've been fortunate to have lived my entire adult life since graduation in the same West Side area, a few miles from the Columbia campus. Those living in the area should know that Columbia hosts free chamber music concerts each week at St. Paul's Chapel and some free lectures at the 125th Street campus and Wallach Art Gallery."

Roger Wyatt SOA'74 writes, "Greetings to all. I'm happily retired with my lovely wife, Letitia, on the shores of the Hudson in Washington County, about 20 minutes outside of Saratoga. I spend a lot of time writing. At the moment I'm working on an essay about the coming of quantum computing and AI software."

CCT has learned of the May 4, 2024, passing of **David J. Shapiro** GSAS'73, a poet, art historian and professor who lived in the Bronx. An obituary will be published in the Fall 2024 issue.

1969

Columbia College Today
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CCT is sorry to report that CC'69 class correspondent **Nathaniel Wander** died on March 27, 2024. An obituary will be published in the Fall 2024 issue.

If you are interested in assuming the role of class correspondent, please write to the email above with the subject line "CC'69 class correspondent."

In the meantime, please send your news, updates and/or College memories to *CCT* at the email above or by using the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1970

Leo Kailas
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I have lots of catch-up to do, as I could not include all the notes I received in my last column. This note from **Carl Hyndman** GSAS'74 is one such example. "As we get older, we seem to grow younger. My dream has always been to play guitar in a group. This dream became reality when I recently became friends with the lead guitarist for Iron Butterfly (yes, that Iron Butterfly: 'In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida'). We formed a tribute band called Eric and the Trailer Trash. We do Beatles covers and some blues. Take a listen on the YouTube channel Carl L. Hyndman or The Carl L."

Elliot Stern reports: "I am happy to note that my major contribution to Indological scholarship has recently been published: Vidhiviveka of Maṇḍanamiśra with its commentary Nyāyakaṇikā of Vācaspatimiśra and its commentaries Juṣadhvaṅkaraṇī and Svaditaṅkaraṇī of Parameśvara (online at bit.ly/3vE7PEs)."

Old friend **James Periconi** gave me a report on his preceding six months, dating back to May 2023. Even the CliffsNotes version that begins in September 2023 is long: "In September, I spent 10 days in Paris with the Association internationale de bibliophilie (International Association of Bibliophiles), where we visited the treasures of Paris' great libraries, including all parts of the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the Bibliothèque Marazrine (as well as those of the municipal library of Versailles, much more interesting to a bibliophile than the library of Versailles palace itself) ... Speaking of France and French at Columbia, in the spring [I had dinner with] my former French teacher at Columbia … Susan Rubin Suleiman, now an emerita professor [at Harvard]."

I also shortened this note from **David Sokolow: "Joel Mintz, Ted Wirecki** and I went on our 17th consecutive annual (excluding 2020) guys' trip this past fall. We spent a week in Costa Rica exploring the rainforest and Pacific coast ... I still teach at the UT School of Law one semester a year. It's the best of both worlds: I love it when I teach and love it when I don't. Because my wife, Tobi, is retired, we get to travel more. Since we didn't get to celebrate our 50th reunion in 2020, I hope to reconnect with y'all here in Austin in 2024. I'm happy to show you around this amazing city (dsokolow@law.utexas.edu)."

Professor **Robert Launay** gave me this update: "I am still active, and have recently become executive editor of the *Journal of Religion in Africa.* I have also been appointed to the President's Advisory Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate at Northwestern."

Norman Greene celebrated his 50th reunion at NYU Law last spring and told me you can view his legal publications online at bit.ly/49l2ZKc.

Fred Kushner VPS'74 reports: "After 45 years in my practice of cardiology I will be retiring and moving from New Orleans to be closer to my growing family. I will continue to teach cardiology fellows at NYU Langone, and continue to paint, read, golf and enjoy summers in Colorado with some winter months in Florida. This year I planned to attend my 50th reunion for VPS. My older son, Adam Benjamin Kushner '03, recently became the deputy editor of the *New York Times* newsletter 'The Morning.' My younger son, Jared Scott Kushner '06, VPS'12, is an assistant professor and translational scientist at Columbia. My wife, Ivy, maintains a busy nonprofit and sporting life with tennis and pickleball."

Professor **Larry Rosenwald** GSAS'79 wrote: "… I've been 'reading and writing.' Writing in some unusual venues, for me at least: a review of James Marcus' book on Emerson for *The New York Times.* An abridged version of a talk I gave setting out a pacifist perspective on the war in Gaza has been published in *The Catholic Radical,* a Catholic Worker newspaper published in Worcester, Mass. Some reflections on accuracy in multilingual literature will be published in the *Journal of Literary Multilingualism.*"

William Longa caught up with me: "**Jack Probolus** and I have stayed close ever since our time rowing together. [As I write this] we are enjoying a few days of golf and sunny weather at my winter home on Hilton Head. We managed to make it to last year's Homecoming game with my apartment mates Dave Sweeney '71 and Dennis Dean SEAS'71."

Leonard Levine GSAS'77 writes: "I attended an Object Management Group conference near me in Reston, Va. The topic was the continuing update of the last IT standard I worked on before I retired in 2018: OMG/ISO Unified Architecture Framework, good for mission planning as well as project and system development."

On a sad note, **John Gardner** wrote: "I thank my many classmates and fellow alumni for their kind, generous support for the untoward death of my son Joseph Kerksick Gardner (Nov. 3, 1990–Sept. 17, 2022)."

Lewis Siegelbaum reports: "I have become an active member of the Israel-Palestine Working Group of H-PAD (Historians for Peace and Democracy). We seek to better inform the public about the historical context of the current situation in Israel-Palestine and to add our collective voice for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war."

Dov Zakheim gave this update: "I have been appearing regularly on WION, a major Indian-English language TV outlet, discussing U.S.-Israeli relations during the course of the Gaza war. It has about 15 million viewers."

Another old friend, **Dan Feldman,** wrote: "My wife says I do things backward. I was promoted to tenured full professor in 2014, and got my Ph.D. in February of this year. Seems logical to me. I now have a doctor of philosophy degree in philosophy."

Professor **Lennard Davis** GSAS'77 reports: "I'm retiring from teaching at the end of this year. I began teaching as a graduate student in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia in 1971. I've taught at a number of institutions including Harvard, Brandeis, Penn, SUNY Binghamton and finally at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where I've been for the last quarter-century along with **John D'Emilio** GSAS'72. I've taught literature, disability studies, medical humanities and novel studies … I have a book coming out in November, *Poor Things: How Those with Money Depict Those without It,* and I hope to continue writing and lecturing in New York City, where I live, and elsewhere."

Frank Motley LAW'74's update is: "Nine years retired from Indiana University, snowbirding between Bloomington, Ind., and West Palm, Fla., I still assume I hold the class record for most grandchildren (19) and great-grandchildren (14)."

Dr. **Paul Rosen** writes: "In November I was proud to attend Columbia General Studies' Columbia University Military Ball; proceeds help underwrite academic and career transition programming for all veterans and military family members nationwide, financial aid for veteran students at Columbia University, and veteran student and alumni programming. It was attended by President Minouche Shafik, Dean Josef Sorett and more than 500 active and former military, and the school spirit was probably the best I have ever seen. I continue to work, now half time. I write and publish medical articles and attend medical conferences and forums across the country. I spend time with my grandchildren, who are my pride and joy, and am starting to wind down as age takes its inevitable toll."

1971

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Robert Mayer reports the tradition of The Men's Trip continues for a group of classmates and friends. It started in summer 1980. Robert and his brother Alan Mayer '72 were backpacking in the Wind River Range of Wyoming. They loved the experience and committed to try to do some kind of nature-oriented trip together every summer.

During the next few years, several friends in the San Francisco Bay Area asked if they could join them. Three of the friends were **Larry "Spider" Masket, Larry "T" Teitlebaum** and Elliot Cahn (who entered with the Class of 1970 but left to pursue a career with another Columbia College institution, Sha Na Na; he completed his degree at UC Berkeley).

At its largest, The Men's Trip had 10 participants, with Columbia alums typically the majority or at least the plurality.

Except for 2020, when the risk was too high due to the lack of a Covid-19 vaccine, they have kept their vow of yearly trips to enjoy nature. They have transitioned from backpacking to their base camp to having their gear carried by pack animals. Most recently, they began staying in cabins and taking day hikes.

They added a "Mini Men's Trip" that consists of getting together during the winter at Sea Ranch, Calif., where Robert's brother Alan and another friend have second homes by the Pacific Ocean. Please note that **John Jaeger** was with them on this year's Mini via telephone.

The group members hold different orientations to the outdoors. Some members of the group like nothing better than building a campfire and sleeping under the stars. As a youth, Robert associated nature with dirt and mosquitos, but on graduating and moving to California, he left that attitude behind. In contrast, Spider loves the camaraderie much more than the hiking.

Through the years, the group has traveled to Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Utah and British Columbia, although the most frequent destination is somewhere in California's Sierra Mountains. They are looking forward to their 44th annual trip this summer; the venue is as yet unknown. Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo from this year's Mini.

For your class correspondent, my life has been busy during the last several months, and although the sea my family sailed on was rocky, it was nothing we couldn't handle. That is my excuse for the limited information in this issue of Class Notes. However, if you submit your life events to me at my Gmail address, at the top of the column, they will make a future issue. Our class has helped shape the planet as it is today. Your small or large part in creating events that change our world and how we live holds interest for classmates. Drop me a line.

1972

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From the Embarrassment of Riches Department: We had so many great submissions for this issue that we'll have to save some for next time.

To get us started, **Mark Hoffman** "vividly remember[s] what it was like in 1968 when, as freshmen, we were thrust into situations that felt like we were on the front lines of a kind of student revolution with the consternations between the SDS, our Columbia University administration and the NYPD Tactical Patrol Force. I have been teaching for years that you never retire — what you are to do is retire and 'refire' to give back in worthwhile ways. Hence, I now am privileged to be spending time with folks who are on the front lines of human needs. I am (because of my serious, focused training from International Literacy and Development and my 52 years of business experience) coaching refugee families from places like Afghanistan, Iran, Syria and Jordan who are starting life over here in Dallas-Fort Worth. These are folks who have faced 'Big T Trauma,' and I love to witness how resilient they are and how hungry they are for life and an opportunity to flourish.

"I am also still enjoying health care and benefits consulting without sales quotas and commissions, but rather a consulting fee and my years of knowing how the sausage is made in medical benefits. I also work in another frontline situation as the board chair of operations at Winfree Academy Charter Schools, for students in second- and third-chance high school situations. I attend Rotary meetings (I am past president of a Rotary club in Tulsa, and one here in Dallas, too). What keeps my wife, Jana, and me ramped up about life (aside from interacting with fantastic grandchildren and our 41st wedding anniversary) is our close work with the prayer ministry at our local church. We help lead the team that prays in an upper room for the preacher, the staff and all the lives who are present each Sunday as a frontline effort during the service. And now we are privileged to be there each Wednesday, as the sanctuary is open to the church members and the public at large for quiet individual prayers ... By helping us shine a light on our individual lives we begin to see how together we all make up a super-welcoming stained-glass window of humanity!"

As Mark suggests, retirement doesn't necessarily mean having nothing to do. Case in point: **Shep Hurwitz** VPS'76, who "retired from several positions during the last four years, including as executive director of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and professor of orthopaedics at UNC. He writes: "I commute between Chapel Hill and Charlottesville. I have administrative roles at the UVA School of Medicine Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and teach at the UVA Darden School of Business while pursuing a doctorate in education at Grand Canyon University. Two daughters are in North Carolina, one working full time and the other finishing college at Appalachian State University."

This is the first time writing for **Alan Mayer,** who notes, "It's been a long time since I left NYC. I took off for law school in San Francisco after graduation and basically had a solo civil litigation practice representing individuals. I retired at the start of the pandemic in 2020, after 45 years. I live in San Anselmo (about a half-hour north of SF) with my wife of 44 years. Strictly volunteer work now. Have two great daughters and three grandsons all living in the Bay Area. I have an ongoing summer hiking trip (going on our 43rd year) into the mountains (converting from backpacking to having mules carry our gear) with a group that includes, among others, five Columbians (me; my brother Rob Mayer '71, Larry Masket '71, Larry Teitlebaum '71 and Elliot Cahn; go to the CC'71 column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo from this year's trip). Still in touch with **Alex Waugh.**"

Another first-time message comes from **Paul Masson,** who notes, "After Columbia I studied with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi for a few years and then taught TM (meditation) in Japan for six years. After a few other short-lived businesses, I bought M-S Cash Drawer from a Japanese meditation student in 1988 and have run it ever since. I have two grown kids and four grandkids, and one 16-year-old daughter still at home. I live in La Canada, a suburb of Los Angeles. I would like to retire, but every time I am about to do so we have a recession or pandemic or some other emergency I have to stay on to handle.

"My fondest memories are of the chaotic experiences living in the Fiji house on West 114th Street and all the wild friends I made there. I think many of the 'fun' things we did then you'd be arrested for now. NYC was so out of control then that our activities just blended right in!"

"Life has been a rollercoaster that has treated me better than I deserve," says **Michael Later.** "After going to graduate school, and then teaching, I succumbed to the inevitable and went to law school. I practiced for 20-plus years in middling-sized firms in Salt Lake City and Las Vegas, and then have been on my own for the last 20 years I live in Mesa, Ariz., with my bride, Rexann. We have four children (two apiece) and seven grandchildren. I practice as general counsel for a Las Vegas real estate developer. We cherish our yearly trips to England to visit our youngest grandson. I deeply miss my dear Columbia friends **Alex Waugh, Brian Rosner** and **Alan Mayer.** Their wisdom and compassion helped this underprepared westerner through the great years at Columbia."

John Miller BUS'77 is "still run[ning] my financial planning and investment business and will probably do so for a long time to come. I'm blessed in having work that I love doing. Recently, with the addition of Henry, I have five grandkids. So much fun visiting them and so much fun leaving them with their parents at the end of the day. My son, Adam, has decided that he wants to be a police officer and has been accepted by the force in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. He started the academy in April. I'm so proud of him.

"My best memories at Columbia include sitting on Low Steps at all hours of the night, eating subs and talking and debating the events of the time and anything else anyone wanted to discuss. Spirited, heartfelt discussions with never any hard feelings. It was a wonderful life then. Secondly, I often think about sitting in the stacks in Butler in relative darkness with the reading light shining on the page. It was so easy to concentrate. Knowledge leaped from the page into my mind. I hope all classmates are doing well."

Syngcuk Kim DM'78 is a full-time professor of endodontics and associate dean at Penn Dental Medicine. "I practice in NYC at Rockefeller Center two days per week, now about 40 years! My main job is making global connections with Penn and the world, and teaching dentists in other countries by lecturing and doing live demo surgery. No retirement planned!"

More to come in the next issue.

1973

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Ken Kutscher VPS'77 is practicing cardiology and working on his second memoir, *In Your Dreams, Dad!,* which is loaded with hopes and dreams about his life but most of all about time with his daughter Jan as she was growing up; she is now a schoolteacher in the Bronx. Ken was honored in 2023 by Rep. Tom Kean (R-N.J.) as a "Senior of Distinction" for his community work in his district.

Henry Rosenberg is five years into retirement as an internist and pediatrician, and is active in Physicians for Social Responsibility. He adds, "Nuclear war is bad for the future of Columbia College."

How true! Please check out preventnuclearwar.org.

On a sad note, **Errol Holt** BUS'76 passed away on Nov. 22, 2023. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

And there you have it. Write early and often!

1974

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Remember when we were referred to as Yuppies? (That was when we were *Young* Urban Professionals.) Now many have become Guppies (*Geezer* Urban Professionals) and others have already become Grumpies (Geezer Retired Unfit Miami Pickleballers)! Well, at least we're staying vertical! We should take inspiration from Mick Jagger who, along with Keith Richards, turned 80 this year and is still touring. Don't know if you heard, but special presale tickets for their Hackney Diamonds tour are available to those with an AARP membership (really!).

Spring Break isn't the same when you are in your 70s as it was in your 20s. Sure, many of us might catch a flight to Florida, but instead of wild parties on the beach we will be taking our grandchildren to Walt Disney World. Such was the case when I reached the cell phone of recently retired lawyer (from Proskauer in NYC) **Ed Kornreich** and his wife, Shirley, as they were leaving Magic Kingdom Park with three grandchildren in tow. He said they had a great time and that they might bring all six grandchildren to Disney on their next trip.

How convenient, I thought: bankruptcy and a nervous breakdown rolled into one! "Spring breakdown"?

Another great tradition seems to be to get your retired parents to help take care of the older kids when a new grandchild arrives. Thus, I found retired lawyer (from Gibson Dunn in NYC) **Peter Sullivan** and his wife, Mary Krueger BC'74 (who live in Santa Barbara, Calif.), in South Carolina when their daughter, Carly '07, added another grandson (Beau). Twin sister Hilary '07 lives an hour from Peter and Mary in southern California and had fairly recently called them for the same help when she had a second child.

"I'm retiring!!" screamed the email from **Ted Gregory** earlier this year. "After 11 years working for Columbia, I'm calling it quits." After a career of executive search elsewhere, Ted had returned to alma mater to be director of diversity initiatives and talent retention for the Office of Alumni and Development. He was also a Board of Directors member of the Columbia Alumni Association and on the football and basketball advisory committees. With Manhattan housing being so lofty for a retiree, Ted tells us he will finally be moving from Morningside Heights. It has taken half a century, but **Fidel Lopez** has sent news from his life in Spain. Until mandatory retirement in 2021, he was a professor at the Universidade da Coruña. Fidel tells us he has been married for 51 years and has two children. Since retirement, he has been doing "my share of quiet not-for-profit work." He asked me to pass on, "Fidel is much happier than he deserves, and he knows it. That is why he is doing retirement penance, trying to make others' lives a little happier."

Seems like a good way for all of us to spend part of our retirement years.

The first (and undoubtedly not the last) mention of artificial intelligence came in a Facebook post from **Jon Ben-Asher** (a law partner at Ritz Clark & Ben-Asher in Lower Manhattan). He said he was part of a panel at the New York City Bar Association's Employment Law Institute exploring the impact of AI in the workplace. If you Google his name, you can read his recent white paper, *Artificial Intelligence and Employee Monitoring: Big Brother is an Algorithm Named Julie, and She's Hiring, Watching and Rating You.* Alternatively, reread George Orwell's *1984* (published in 1949)!

A few follow-ups on classmates mentioned in recent columns. When I wrote that **Abbe Lowell** LAW'77 (lawyer in Washington, D.C.) was interviewed on *Face the Nation,* I thought it was a unique TV appearance. Now those watching virtually any news program are likely to get a near-daily dose of Abbe, as every time Hunter Biden is photographed in a congressional inquiry or even just walking down the hall we see Abbe by his side. **Arthur Schwartz** (lawyer in NYC) emailed that he had started publishing *The Village View,* a local newspaper for Greenwich Village. He said that local newspapers play a vital role in our country, citing the local paper in Nassau County that uncovered the lies of George Soros.

Sad news came in from **Jean-Pierre "JP" van Lent** (a commercial litigation lawyer with Cullen and Dykman in Uniondale, N.Y.). He told us that **Robert Knapp** LAW'77 passed away last December after a brief struggle with colon cancer. Rob was a longtime partner of Mulholland & Knapp, a law firm in Port Washington, N.Y. JP accurately says of Rob, "No one who met Rob would confuse him with anyone else, and those who knew him could only love him for his idiosyncratic humor, caring nature and unceasing, inquisitive intelligence." Rob is survived by his wife, Enn-Soo; daughter, Esther; sons, Henry and Aaron; and four grandchildren. Rob was an active alumnus who helped plan many of our reunions. He was missed by many at our 50th.

There you have it. As we move from being Yuppies to becoming Grumpies, we celebrate our grandchildren and mourn the inevitable losses of buddies from the past half-century. Some of us are either using or fighting AI in our careers while others plan new lives in retirement. Stay tuned for more updates.

Roy Plotnick '76 retired in 2020 after 38 years at the University of Illinois Chicago and is now professor emeritus, still doing research and writing papers.

On March 12, in West Palm Beach, Fla., four friends got together (left to right): Paul Dashefsky '76, Jeff Retig '75, Jeff Hon '75 and Henry Harary '77. Dashefsky noted, "The best part is none of them have aged at all since college!"

1975

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We must take note of the several classmates, me included, who are most distressed by the blatant display of antisemitism on the Columbia campus, and what we see as the administration's apparent lack of resolve in dealing with this unfortunate situation. We hope that the many Jewish students at Columbia and Barnard will not have to endure this distressful situation for long.

Turning to other news:

David J. Goldberg reports his latest activities: "After 45 years and affiliations with three major American appraisal associations, I decided to start my own certification group. I call it Certified Estate, Divorce, and Insurance Appraisers of America. I am hoping that the qualifications will be the most stringent of all certifications; I welcome Columbia grads to become art and antiques appraisers (if anyone knows any person who might seek such a professional career)."

Robert Schneider recently saw a two-hour program on PBS, *Dante: Inferno to Paradise,* that included Professor of Italian Teodolinda Barolini GSAS'78 as one of the commentators. We all remember this book as one of the favorites from Humanities A.

Douglas Letter, who is lead counsel at the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, is trying to work with Hollywood and the NBA to promote a message about reducing gun violence.

We wish him well with this worthy project.

James Oberly, now in Minneapolis, edited and annotated a book published in 2023, *Budapest Blackout: A Holocaust Diary.* The book consists of excerpts from the diary of Dr. Maria Madi, a Hungarian physician who wrote daily between December 1941 and November 1945. Madi was subsequently honored by Yad Vashem as a "Righteous Among the Nations" for her courageous actions in protecting Jews from death and deportation in the Holocaust.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue. Please keep sending news to me to share with classmates. Our 50th reunion is around the corner!

1976

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One hundred years ago this past February, George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* debuted, and I have listened to it often, so I put a recording of Oscar Levant playing Gershwin's *Second Rhapsody* instead, and off I go to the Class of 1976 column!

This column is geographically from all over. What great fun to hear from across the world!

Beginning in Florida, my first-year floormate from 10 Carman, **Paul Macchi** VPS'80, sent this in: "I decamped to Florida many years ago. It's more crazy after all these years. I am a lucky boy. Married to the girl of my dreams. Still can't stop watching her. Blessed with a task (neuroradiology) that is forever humbling and deep. Gratitude! Kids are trying

GAIL KUSHNER

John Kushner ’76 (far left) and Jessica Geddes ’16 (center) discovered they had some Columbia commonalities while at the wedding of Kushner’s stepson in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico, on March 2. They share the same birthday, graduated from medical school 40 years apart and have both worked at the University of Cincinnati. Also pictured are John Shea (second from left), who was attending with Geddes, and the bride and groom, Rachael Greenberg and Kushner and his wife Gail’s oldest son, Adam (far right).

to find their way. As it should be. Photography was my path to radiology. Still shooting. Sold all my gear and now use my iPhone. Amazing for what it is. ‘The best camera is the one you have with you.’ Discovered Buddhism 30-plus years ago with a daily practice that has changed my life. Sasaki Roshi’s ‘Where will you stand when the earthquake comes?’ Curiosity in the mystery and paradox of life is something my meditation teacher of many years urges us to explore. I am so blessed I could just burst sometimes.”

Paul Dashefsky: “After 44 years practicing labor and employment law, I have substantially slowed down. Nevertheless, I continue to be involved in grading the New York Bar Exam. A major source of enjoyment is my two young granddaughters.”

Paul also sent in the nearby great photo of a reunion of friends from adjacent classes in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Roy Plotnick checked in from the Midwest: “I retired in 2020 after 38 years at the University of Illinois Chicago and am now professor emeritus. Still doing research and writing papers. I represented Columbia at the investiture of our new chancellor in April. My first book, *Explorers of Deep Time: Paleontologists and History of Life,* was published in 2022 by Columbia University Press, which will also publish my forthcoming second book, on the geo-heritage of Chicago. Recently became a grandfather!”

Another Midwesterner, **Michael Imperiale** GSAS’81: “I retired from the University of Michigan at the end of last year after almost 40 years as a faculty member. It was a great ride, and I would often tell people that having taken the Core Curriculum at the College undoubtedly made me a better scientist. And person. I have three grown, married children and five grandkids, with another on the way this summer. I’m adjusting to retirement, which has been less painful than I’d anticipated. I have lots of travel plans and, importantly, more time to spend with the little ones.”

Moving east, **Gary Lehman** BUS’80, SIPA’80: “My wife, Linda SIPA’80, and I live in northern Vermont, following the eternal human migratory impulse to be near grandchildren (number 7 arrived a year ago, oldest is 8). Linda is a case manager at UVM Health Network Medical Center; I retired nine years ago after 36 years at IBM (jeepers, that long already?!); I have worked for the Department of Homeland Security for five years; I am a program delivery manager/public sector (‘helping people before, during and after the disaster’). Fulfilling and interesting work, with benefits of travel around the United States and U.S. territories; I recently deployed to Guam and Saipan, hit by typhoons — glad that we helped out our Chamorro (Indigenous peoples of the Mariana Islands) friends and neighbors there! We are badly missing New York: Manhattan, Arthur Avenue, New York Botanical Garden, zoo, the local clubs we were members of and most of all, our New York/New Jersey friends.”

From the New York area, **David Hershkowitz** remembered my WKCR days, saying: “Enjoyed your play-by-play. Remember **Doug Jackson.** After 43 years I have retired from my Bayside, N.Y., dental practice. I’m getting fit and looking to enjoy what the city has to offer when I’m not on the boardwalk here in Long Beach. I have 6.3 grandchildren and I dream of seeing one of them fencing for the Lions or Team USA!”

From that sixth borough of New York where I live, Northern New Jersey, **Jim Bruno** reports: “Our 1976 baseball team was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in October. **Bob Kimutis** and I were co-captains of that team. During that season a young **Ken Howitt** provided the play-by-play on WKCR.”

Two mentions of my play-by-play in one column. I was not that memorable, especially to me. Please remember **Jon Kushner,** who was the most talented ’76er behind the WKCR microphones! Jon sent in the nearby great photo from his son’s wedding … two Columbia alums, 40 years apart, met in Mexico!

Another New Yorker from the Upper West Side, **Jonathan Margolis:** “My younger daughter got married last summer at the Central Park Zoo. My wife and I still live on the UWS, a block away from our two grandsons. I can’t believe that I keep reading that our colleagues are retiring. I will have to give it some thought!”

Mark Gauthier ’77 is consulting, doing nonprofit board work and keeping old age at bay as a 3.5-level daily tennis player.

From around the world, in Israel, specifically, **Baruch Schwartz** (né Barney) sent this in: “Happy to report that everyone in my family is safe and well, and they have all been released from reserve duty as of this writing. I retired this year from my position at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, concluding four-plus decades of teaching biblical studies (at HebU and elsewhere). Like everyone else in the humanities, I imagine that retiring from active teaching will enable me to move ahead with research projects awaiting completion. Mostly, however, I intend to devote more time to kids, grandchildren, friends, home and garden, and crime fiction. At a one-day conference held by my department to mark my retirement, I was presented with a volume of essays in my honor, *The Pentateuch and Its Readers.* Who could ask for a nicer way to celebrate?”

Moving across the country to Washington State, **Charles Martin** will attend Left Coast Crime, a convention of mystery writers and other criminal minds that meets west of the Rockies each year. This year it’s in Seattle and will include the launch of the Pacific Northwest crime anthology *The Killing Rain*, in which he has a story. No doubt he’ll be talking up *Rented Grave*, his novel that will be out this summer. With editing done on that one Charles is back to writing his next Hong Kong crime novel. Apart from that, he and his wife, Cathy, tried to stay warm and dry in the Seattle spring.

We had a few classmates simply saying hi! Jumping across the Pacific Ocean, **Monte Elias** checked in from Hawaii and will eventually report something when he comes in from the sun. **Lars Newsome** also sent a brief reply. **Richard Sussman** observed that I seem to be on a “Sondheim tear,” which has been true for a very long time.

So, not much writing from me since all of you took Freshman Seminar. Thanks for your updates, and keep them coming!

1977

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In saying this I feel that I am repeating myself, but the Class of 1977 is really all over the place.

Palm Springs. Winters, **Mark Gauthier** GSAS'79 resides in southern California (summers, in Seal Harbor, Maine). This, he explains, "after a long career in magazine publishing in New York — first at the Council on Foreign Relations (*Foreign Affairs*), then at *Forbes* and finally at *Time*."

Don't think that Mark has become sedentary, however. "I'm consulting and doing a good deal of nonprofit board work, finishing up 10 years as president of the Foundation for the Palm Springs Unified School District," as well as "keeping old age at bay as a 3.5-level daily tennis player."

Mark had a visit in February from **Barry Bergdoll** GSAS'86, who was in town for Modernism Week (actually 10 days), a Palm Springs event, in which modern architecture and design are celebrated. Mark says that Barry's keynote, "'Modernist Architecture on Exhibition,' was a sellout at the beautiful Annenberg Theater at the Palm Springs Art Museum."

Since hearing from Mark, I have learned that Barry is the 2024 recipient of a Humanities Faculty Award for Academic Excellence, which recognizes academic excellence in the humanities at Columbia.

India. **Peter Basch** reports a number of things. First, he is still working, as a writer and technical editor at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. His current project is NISAR, "a collaboration with the Indian space agency, ISRO," which, at this writing, was scheduled to launch in April. "I worked in Bangalore for a few weeks when we shipped the hardware to the satellite construction facility. I worked in both the ISRO facility and in the stunning five-star luxury hotel where they put us up. The only reason I favored the hotel was that it had internet access, which was forbidden in the highly secure ISRO facility." Second, Peter has a grandchild (his first), Roger Edmund, who will be 2 when this column appears. Nor is that all; third, Peter announces, "I am reigniting the acting career that I left in order to make a better living when I got married. Do you need a distinguished, older, balding man who speaks French and German? *Me voici.*"

Brooklyn (inevitably). **Jeffrey Goldberg** has been the chair of behavioral health at New York City Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health for 17 years. In May 2023, he informs us, a clinical services building, the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Hospital (on Ocean Parkway), opened, one result of a FEMA project that began after Hurricane Sandy in — can you recall the date? — 2012. "It has been a very rewarding endeavor," Jeff says, "serving some of the most disadvantaged and disenfranchised New Yorkers and addressing the mental health crisis we are all facing." He also has family news: In October 2023, his son "Justin Goldberg was married to Dr. Rachel Hainline '15," in a wedding held in Durham, N.C. Meanwhile, there are two grandchildren (Max and Dylan) by the other son, Brandon, and Brandon's wife, Katie. At ages 5 and 3, it seems predictable that Jeff describes them as "really putting my wife, Sherry, and me through our paces." And Jeff is co-author of a chapter, "Fathers on Television," to appear in a volume on dads in 2024.

Tel Aviv. I was especially pleased to hear from my *Spectator* colleague **Jonathan Steinberg** GSAPP'80, who decided that "the time has come" for him to write in to the column. His story goes like this: A few years after finishing graduate school in urban planning at Columbia, Jonathan moved to Israel. He and his wife, Barbara Storch, "have four children and four grandchildren, all born and living here." Jonathan works in the commercial real estate business and runs a company, Newmark Natam, with more than 100 employees. He cannot help but notice that "many contributors to the Class Notes are other *Spectator* veterans," and wants to convey greetings to **Jon Lukomnik**, among others.

1978

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Thanks for the responses, which always go way over our allotted space — so edit I must. Some of you will be bumped to the website (college.columbia.edu/cct).

Tom Mariam, who still covers many New York sports when not engaged in his day job of major league law firm public relations, reports, "Not since our senior year, when our Lions beat Penn, had there been as much excitement and success as we experienced this season with our marvelous women's basketball team, which earned its way into the NCAA Tournament, before being edged by Vanderbilt. Making it more special was attending games with WKCR friends and colleagues Russ Behrman '77, Ken Howitt '76 and Shari Teitelbaum BC'79, and classmates such as **Fred Rosenstein** and **Mike Wilhite.** Coach Megan Griffith '07 and her tremendous team, led by the spectacular Abbey Hsu '24, made the 50th year at Levien (you know, 'the new gym') a most memorable one!"

"I have been enjoying Columbia women's basketball," adds **Chuck Callan.** "You can see the love they have for one another, and their coach is the indomitable sixth person.

"My daughter Grace, a frontliner in the Covid-19 wars, got married at home this spring, to Matt, whom we love, too!"

Joseph Zablotski sends "greetings from soon-to-be totally-solar-eclipsed Buffalo, N.Y.! Older son, Casimir, went to Hamilton, then University of Warsaw, and on to investment banking in New York, London and now Warsaw. Younger son, Aleksander, was finishing Johns Hopkins, majoring in molecular cellular biology, and daughter, Greta, is at the University of Rochester in public health and nursing."

Now in his seventh year on the faculty at Stanford University, as director of orchestral studies, **Paul Phillips** GSAS'80 notes, "I'm no rock star, but I get to perform with them. I conducted a performance of Grateful Dead songs featuring Bobby Weir & Wolf Bros for 6,000 enthusiastic Deadheads. My latest composition, *Sweet Thunder* for 12 pianos, premiered this year, and the book *The Devil Prefers Mozart: On Music and Musicians, 1962–1993,* which I compiled and edited, went on sale, too. My wife, Kathryne Jennings, is the director of vocal studies at Stanford, and our daughters, Joanna '12 and Alanna (UVM'21), both work in film and TV in Los Angeles.

"Getting a Columbia education was one of the foundational pillars of everything I achieved in my adult life, but society seems to be turning away from expertise today. To be educated, knowledgeable, with expertise on a topic makes one 'an elite' to be ignored by the so-called 'real' citizens. I find this trend shocking and utterly disheartening. It is why I often say I don't consider us to be living in a 'serious' society anymore."

On the common theme of aging gracefully, **Bill Hartung** explains, "Turning 68 wasn't nearly as scary as I expected it to be. I'm on a good run — enjoying my job, working on a book, expanding my social circle and getting better at my main hobby, standup comedy, often at my favorite club at 75th and Amsterdam. When I tell the crowd I'm 68 I generally get a vigorous round of applause. I don't ask whether the applause is because they're surprised I made it this far, or they're impressed I'm doing comedy at my age.

"I work on foreign policy issues, most recently at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, and I'm working on a book tentatively titled *The Trillion Dollar War Machine*, which is about the evolution of the military-industrial complex since Eisenhower's day."

And **Jeff Canfield** SIPA'82 adds, "At 68 I find myself reflecting on the same time perspective issues. If you want to compound the problem, I recommend that you read *The Serpent Papers,* by Jeff Schnader '75. It will trigger memories of life at Columbia and cause you to reflect on that time and the present.

"I am a DoD senior executive, but truth be told, my wife and I have fallen in love with Iceland. She wants to open a second cat cafe in Reykjavik and I would love to open an art gallery there. The costs associated with living as an expat in Iceland will, of course, preclude both options, but it is nice to dream, even at this advanced age!"

On the theme of what can Columbia do better, **Joel Levinson** says, "I wish Columbia did a better job of teaching history of the Middle East, but people refuse to learn from history. Mussolini made the trains run on time, and Hitler rebuilt the German army, but what did that get the Italians and the Germans? Putin invades a sovereign state without provocation, and instead of seeing the parallels to 1938 we shamefully play politics with aid to Ukraine.”

John Glusman GSAS’80, of W.W. Norton & Co., notes that he’s “had more connections with Columbia faculty than with classmates and I believe that Columbia has a vital role to play not just in terms of its emphasis on a Core Curriculum in the humanities but also in instilling the values that inspire political discourse and participation in civil society. How can we have an informed electorate without some knowledge of American history and political science? Columbia can and should emphasize those disciplines even more.”

Marvin I.C. Siegfried is “enjoying retirement and in Florida with my wife. Pickleball has proven to be fun; after two knee surgeries, it’s something I can still play. We recently moved to Boynton Beach, where we have more room for guests.

“The number of Jewish students in the Ivies has declined dramatically (about 50 percent), according to a recent article. Antisemitism, which was openly present when Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882 was University president, seems to be making a comeback. I would not recommend the College to any of my Jewish friends or their kids, which is a shame because I cannot overemphasize the value of the education I received there.”

Among our most active and involved classmate on issues in the Middle East is no doubt **Gary Pickholz** SIPA’81, who writes, “I have not written notes to date on living through the current war with Hamas, and the explosion of antisemitism on American college campuses, and for now I cannot comment until the April testimony before the House of Representatives Committee on Education & the Workforce. I trust any Class of ’78 alumnus who was privileged to read the Core Curriculum can discern the deafening silence of what may not be publicly expressed. How tragic that we have come to this in the United States, and the Ivy League in particular. Never in my wildest nightmares would I have imagined it possible, let alone to have taken hold without any serious resistance or protest. One always wondered why European antisemitism in the 1930s grew seemingly unchallenged, yet today’s is met with even less real opposition than Europe before the war.”

Go to this column at college.columbia.edu/cct for a note from **Edward Rosenfeld** and sad news on **Rob Josephs.**

1979

Robert C. Klapper
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Robert C. Klapper: “Today’s Columbia thought comes from a personal celebration of writing this column for now 20 years — the Magical Mystery Tour of our lives with our shared touchstone of the four years spent in those hallowed halls of Columbia College.

“Like many of you, I lived my freshman year at Carman, my sophomore year at Hartley, my junior year at John Jay and then culminating in my senior year at the Taj Mahal known as Furnald. The connection between then and now has always been a fascination to me, which is what led me to volunteer for this job at *CCT* to begin with. With that in mind, I’d love to share a recent Columbia connection in my life.

“Beginning our senior year, while many of you (particularly my pre-med colleagues) were joyous in beginning a playful final year at the College, I was unfortunately trapped in my dorm room for a marathon of studying for the MCAT in October with my Kaplan MCAT books to be memorized and the millions of questions to test myself. I truly would not answer my door when anyone knocked. I ate ramen noodles ‘illegally’ on a hot plate and told my friends who were banging at the door, ‘Go away; I’ll see you in October.’

“I did allow myself one study break, which was to go to the TV lounge to watch the new show captivating America, the sitcom *Taxi.* It had premiered the fall of our senior year. I didn’t miss a show because truly it was therapy to watch Danny DeVito, Tony Danza and Marilu Henner cavort. It was a lonely experience, but necessary to lock myself up that way, and that show was a godsend.

“Now fast forward to 2023, 45 years later. Danza and Henner have a one-man and one-woman show, respectively, where they sing and dance in Las Vegas acts they created individually. I had the pleasure of doing knee surgery on Danza and hip surgery on Henner. When their shows came to Los Angeles, each of them called me to ask if I would come to see them sing and dance in their unique solo performances. Danza’s show was in the beginning of the year and Henner’s was toward the end of the year. Each of them, midway through their performances, stopped to tell the audience how grateful they were to be able to dance again pain free because their surgeon, ‘who is present in the audience tonight,’ gave them this gift of an operation.

“All I could think about was 45 years before, sitting in the TV lounge at Furnald watching these two actors making me laugh in the midst of my torture chamber pre-med experience, and it was as if an angel came out of the sky to tap me on the shoulder and say, ‘Keep studying because these two talented folks you are watching right now will one day be your patients because of what you are doing in your tiny little dorm room with the door closed.’

“It truly has been a Magical Mystery Tour. Roar, lion, roar!”

1980

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“There’s nothing in the street
“Looks any different to me
“And the slogans are effaced, by-the-bye
“And the parting on the left
“Is now the parting on the right
“And the beards have all grown longer overnight ...
[insert the iconic Roger Daltrey primal scream]
“Meet the new boss
“Same as the old boss ...”

— The Who, “We Won’t Get Fooled Again,” 1971

We had wonderful time in Tokyo with **Jay Kutlow** and his wife, Diana Wood Kutlow BC’80, where we were both visiting family and friends. After a long and distinguished career in the field of sports production, Jay is teaching a sports media production class at the University of San Diego. In addition, he is the creator of the Sports Rivals podcast, which pits rivals against each other while reliving some of the most memorable moments in sports history.

I wonder if we can get the Harvard guys from the team we beat in ’78!

It was great catching up on Columbia athletics and life in general.

Speaking of sports, congratulations to the women’s basketball team for its bid into the NCAA Tournament. Coach Megan Griffith ’07 has built a powerful program and team for the future. They are fun to watch and show a game at the highest levels.

We had a great turnout for the football golf outing this year. The Lions’ head coach, Jon Poppe, brings a new level of enthusiasm and grit to the program. The team is experienced with returning seniors and fifth-year players, so I expect big things from these guys.

As far as golf, our team — **Scott Ahern, Eric Blattman, Joe Ciulla, Shawn FitzGerald** and me — out-birdied Team Robertson ’81 once again!

Congratulations to Shawn on this year’s Varsity C Alumni Award, given for his dedication to and support of Athletics. Fitz has been there since 1976 as a football and baseball player, teammate and dear friend. He is now the voice of Lions football and can be heard on the radio for all our games.

Congratulations also go to Coach Brett Boretti on becoming the all-time winningest coach in the baseball program’s history. I was fortunate to be on the committee, with **Eric Blattman** and Coach Paul Fernandes (who held the record), 25 years ago that hired Brett. We knew then we had a special person to lead the program and were so glad he joined the family.

Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

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We are taking a sabbatical this time but will be back better than ever in the next issue.

In the meantime, we’ve been tossing around several subjects that we hope will pique your memories:

Remember the ubiquitous ads (in *Spec* and across campus) in which "Miss Dee" would offer to type your papers? Did you ever engage her? What do you recall?

How about the tunnels under our dorms? Any experiences or escapades to relate from down under, beyond the trek to the miserable laundry rooms?

The Broadway and Amsterdam corridors offered a cornucopia of eating and drinking choices. Most now live only in memory — including ours. Where and what do you remember eating during our Morningside years? Were you in the Tom's camp or the College Inn camp? What was your favorite Mama Joy's or Ta-Kome sandwich? Did you enjoy big beef and fries leading you by the fruit stands to Happy Burger?

Recall for us the good, the bad and the ugly, and we'll publish a roundup of the results.

Drop us a line on these topics, or anything else that comes to mind.

1982

Joseph A. Cabrera
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On behalf of classmates, I thank **Andrew Weisman** for his 16 years of service as class correspondent — Andrew, you have been fantastic!

As your new class correspondent, I look forward to hearing news and updates from our amazing Class of 1982.

I attended a few Columbia woman's basketball games with **Mike Schmidtberger** LAW'85; his wife, Margie Sung; and their daughters, Calee SEAS'22 and Mollie '24. We watched this incredible group of women become Ivy League co-champions and earn their first berth to the NCAA Tournament!

Mike is chair of Sidley's Executive Committee, vice-chair of the Columbia College Board of Visitors and a trustee of Phillips Exeter Academy, and has been on the United Way of New York City's Board of Directors for more than 10 years (co-chair, July 2016–June 2023).

Mike, on behalf of classmates and friends, we congratulate you on all your achievements and all you do for the College and our community!

On March 6 I attended the 2024 John Jay Awards Dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street, where the College honored **Victor Lopez-Balboa,** along with four other alumni. Victor has been with Goldman Sachs since 1986 and was named managing director in 1996 and a partner in 2002. Two of his children are also College alumni: Andrew '14 and William '19. Victor is a member emeritus of the Columbia College Board of Visitors. His brother **Frank Lopez-Balboa** was a John Jay Award honoree in 2010.

Tom Nevitt sends his best to the class. All three of his daughters graduated from the College. As I write this, Tom and his wife, Maria, are expecting a grandchild shortly.

We wish **Randy Mickens** all the best in dealing with some health issues he has been facing. Our friend #55 would love to hear from you (randymickens@gmail.com).

Together at the Chabad Columbia University Magen David Adom Fundraising Dinner, held on Nov. 20 at the Moise Safra Center in NYC, were (left to right) Danny Schultz '83, Roy Pomerantz '83 and his son David Pomerantz '26, Sina Ahdoot '23 and Katie Friedman GS'24.

CC'83 classmates and a CC'82 friend had a reunion dinner on June 2, 2023, at Dagon Restaurant in NYC. Attendees were George Fryer '83, Anthony Marcus '83, Michael McCarthy '83, Ed Joyce '83, Michael Cataldo '83, Ron Fiske '83, David Filosa '82 and George Wilson '83.

Life is good for **David Filosa.** He recently celebrated his 10th work anniversary at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, where he is partners with Peter Ross '87, BUS'94. David also is the president of the Society of Columbia Graduates.

If you attended Class Day or Columbia Reunion 2024, write to me about what you did and who you saw.

Our 45th class reunion is just a few years away; we will start planning in early 2025. Please email me if you are interested in getting involved with the Reunion Committee.

I also encourage you to send me updates by email or by using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Look forward to hearing from you!

1983

Roy Pomerantz
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My family and I attended several Columbia women's basketball games in their magical season as co-winners of the Ivy Championship and NCAA participants.

I participated in a Columbia virtual discussion with **Gerrard P. Bushell** GSAS'04, who offered an inside look into the reimaging and development of JFK International Airport's The New Terminal One. Gerrard is the executive chair of The New Terminal One.

Dante Alencastre: "Columbia Pride invited me to screen my latest documentary, *AIDS Diva: The Legend of Connie Norman,* at Lincoln Center on May 9."

Luis Rueda GSAPP'93: "It has been two years since my wife and I moved out of Brooklyn and settled around the village of Woodstock in the Catskill Mountains. Post-pandemic, a search for more space and fresh air led us there. Recently, we hosted **Steven Greenfield** and his fiancée, Melissa. Steven honored us by wearing a shirt rather than his customary T-shirt. Steven and Melissa have been together for many years and make a terrific couple. Our son, Beckett, is in his third year of a Ph.D. program in political philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin. He will teach a class independently for the first time next fall. I continue to consult on design matters, both in architecture and brand management, and have for the last year been on the Board of Directors of the Ulster Literacy Association, helping a talented team to combat illiteracy in the county. My wife makes bespoke coats and jackets while holding a full-time, remote job as part of the digital communications team for a PR agency in NYC."

Paschal Scotti: "After I graduated from Columbia I joined a Benedictine monastery in Rhode Island, Portsmouth Abbey, which runs a boarding high school (and has day students, too). I was ordained a priest in 1989 and have taught there ever since, mostly teaching history and theology and at every level. Aside from articles and dictionary entries, I have published two books: in 2007 on an Edwardian British editor and author, Wilfrid Ward (*Out of Due Time: Wilfrid Ward and The Dublin Review*), and in 2017 on Galileo (*Galileo Revisited: The Galileo Affair in Context*). I have very fine memories of Columbia (the teaching and the libraries are superb) and I have been back a number of times to see one of my professors, Robert Somerville, an expert in medieval canon law, and even gave a University Seminar in 2019 at Columbia on my Galileo book. Columbia played an important part in my life (my younger brother Tom '85, BUS'88 is also an alum) and I pray for its success daily."

Gardner Semet BUS'91: "I am now a grandfather. My grandson, Cameron, was born last year. Cameron, his parents and their dog, Romeo, are with us until work is completed on their house in Montclair, N.J. Their house is only 15 miles from where we live in Pompton Lakes."

Allen Shelton: "I am in my 23rd year as a pastor serving a congregation in Northern New Jersey. I also founded Good Success Academy, which helps youth get into college and also enter the workforce. My favorite memories are the many times I enjoyed Mama Joy's delicatessen. Sadly, it's gone now."

James Lo: "I'm astonished to report that the Foundation for Contemporary Arts has selected me to receive its inaugural Alvin Lucier Award for Music. It's an incredible honor for which I owe thanks to many in the New York downtown contemporary dance community (more online at bit.ly/3JlQq6H)."

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

Wayne Allyn Root: "Nationally syndicated radio host Wayne Allyn Root, known as 'the Bad Boy of Conservative Talk,' announces he's expanding his TV presence to seven days a week on Real America's Voice TV network. Root hosts a popular weekend show on the network, *America's Top Ten Countdown with Wayne Allyn Root.* Root now joins Steve Bannon, Charlie Kirk and Grant Stinchfield with a one-hour weeknight show. *The Root Reaction* will air weeknights starting April 1 at 11 p.m. ET/8 p.m. Pacific. Root says his show will be an 'America First, MAGA, in-your-face, heart-pounding, pedal-to-the-medal, balls-to-the-walls, 180 MPH race through the biggest news stories of the day'… with Root adding his one-of-a-kind, big-mouthed, fiery, raw, high-octane, often-controversial reaction to each story. Root, a friend of President Trump, has been the opening speaker many times for Trump, and Trump has been a guest on Root's radio and TV shows 14 times."

Love to all! Everywhere!

1984

Dennis Klainberg
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Ninth floor Carman, freshman year, one TV in a lounge that could only fit maybe five guys at a time, mostly watching *Ugly George* on public access. In the suite next door, however, there was one guy who bucked the trend and brought his own TV (albeit, black and white I think, and mighty bad reception). If memory serves, that guy was … Dr. **Steve Saunders**!

He writes, "My oldest son, Brian, a graduate of Northwestern, is presently living in Miami, Fla., and is a data engineer for Blackstone. My younger son, Andrew, is a chemical engineer and graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, working for Unilever in research and development with responsibility for well-known products such as Hellmann's Real Mayonnaise, and Knorr and Lipton soup products.

"I am still in solo private practice, primary care, general internal medicine, in Milford, Conn., and teach medical students at Yale and Quinnipiac. I am in my second year as president of the New Haven County Medical Association. My wife, Michelle, remains active in various charitable organizations in our community, and we like to travel around the world as much as possible; presently in Mediterranean in Dubrovnik. Hard to believe how fast years pass."

Although I did not know or meet him during our time at Ol' Blue, this member of Columbia royalty graced our class and continues in his family's footsteps as a noted author, artist, academic and university professor. Welcome back to our column, **Adam Van Doren** GSAPP'89.

Adam writes, "I am still teaching art at Yale in the humanities department, and I recently published a book, *In the Founders' Footsteps: Landmarks of the American Revolution* (with an introduction by Nathaniel Philbrick), which includes my essays and paintings of these landmarks. I included Alexander Hamilton CC 1778's house in Upper Manhattan. The book received the 2022 Distinguished Book Award from The Society of Colonial Wars, and I have been enjoying giving talks about it at a variety of venues, including the Museum of the American Revolution in Philly (a museum worthy of a trip to that city), The New York Society Library, the Harvard Bookstore, The University Club of New York and Fraunces Tavern Museum, among others.

"In researching the book, it was fun to track down so many sites in the five boroughs with ties to the Revolution, including the Morris-Jumel Mansion (one of the oldest existing houses in the city and where Washington had headquarters for several months during the war), and the Billop House on Staten Island, where British general William Howe met with three delegates of the Continental Congress — John Adams, Edward Rutledge and Benjamin Franklin — in 1776, shortly after the Battle of Brooklyn. The three men rowed over from Perth Amboy and refused an olive branch proposal to surrender. Great patriots they were."

Of all the coffee-table books I've collected, one of my favorites, a gift from the author, highlights the magnificent manses of **Richard Manion.**

Richard says, "It's hard, nay impossible, to believe that we graduated 40 years ago. Time marches on or is this the 'tyranny of time'? While my architectural practice is as busy as ever, and architecture has always been my greatest passion and will continue to be so, I wanted to mention a new business venture with which I've become involved, and quite passionately at that. My family has had a few members' lives destroyed by alcoholism. I've watched the slow rise of non-alcoholic beverages offer an alternative to alcohol, providing a welcome option to enjoy on any occasion. Nowhere has this product been more successful than in the beer industry. However, I've found that most products greatly lack the depth of flavor, craft and soul of the real deal. A good friend recently created a line of nonalcoholic beers that really resonated with me on many levels and that I wanted to share with fellow Columbians. DrinkSip brews craft-inspired nonalcoholic beers in small batches with deep and rich flavors, the taste and aroma of hops, and a small number of natural ingredients. I was so impressed by the product that I became an investor. It's a great 'beer' for any occasion, especially when that glass of water with lemon or iced tea has overstayed its welcome and something more fun and festive calls. I planned to toast our 40th with DrinkSip's Hazy IPA and hope classmates will give it a try!"

Blast from the past, the King of Queens! Ladies and gentlemen, our esteemed salutatorian, Dr. **Cary G. Pfeffer.**

Cary shares, "I continue to build new biotech companies at Third Rock Ventures, in my 17th year there; I have been there since we started the firm in 2007. Our companies have developed more than 20 drugs in areas such as oncology, neurological disorders and sickle cell disease. The pace of innovation science and medicine is truly astounding. Things continue to go well even with some rocky financing markets during the last few years.

"My youngest [recently finished freshman year] at GWU in D.C. after taking a gap year, and my oldest was to graduate with a major in media and communications, with a minor in business, from Muhlenberg College this past May. Having not had a real high school graduation due to Covid-19, she was excited to have a real graduation, and we were excited for her.

"My wife, Ruth, continues to do well, working with clients in leadership development and doing lots of yoga. We have been in Lexington, Mass., for more than 20 years and will be moving to nearby Weston in a couple of years, as we are now building a house there — a little more in the woods, where we like it. We are also looking forward to traveling a bit more (planned to be off to Greece in May to celebrate my daughter's graduation) during the next few years as we work a little bit less.

"On another note, in December we had a great event here in Boston where we brought together a bunch of life science alums and deans and faculty at a small dinner event. It was organized by the Alumni Office with my coaxing, and it turned out to be loads of fun. We all agreed we need to do more of this sort of thing, and we will. Join us for the next one."

And last, but not least, I've been waiting a long time to channel my inner Costello and say, "HEY … ABBOOOOOOTTTTTT" to **Jon Abbott:** "We've (Shari Malyn and I) happily moved to Los Angeles, our fifth city together, after I stepped down from 15 years as CEO at WGBH. We love our new city, much like we loved our time in NYC. Our daughter, Ellison ('Ellie'), was married to Patrick Firth in Toronto in January. What a milestone!"

1985

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Thanks to so many of you for your usual prompt responses for updates for our class. As our 40th reunion approaches, next spring, I hope to get more and more updates, and hope to build some momentum for our biggest gathering in some time.

Kevin Townley: "We are celebrating this year's Homecoming football game as the 40th anniversary since our final season, fall 1984. A group of us have gone to almost every HC game since graduation, including **Paul Myers, Evan Morgan, Steve Quackenbush, Dan Upperco, Mike Novotnak, Dan Foote,** Dave Ortiz '86 and Pat Conroy '84. After retiring from the Connecticut Air National Guard, I am in the 18-month training program for Metro-North Railroad to become a locomotive engineer. My daughter Olivia will start Trumbull H.S. in September."

John Phelan moved to Old Lyme, Conn., in 2022, happy to be back in nature. "Living with my lovely partner, Cibel Castillo, and her equally talented daughter Naomi Kurne. Now retired, enjoying vegetable gardening, sailing, golf, tennis and paddle. Our dogs love it! I was fortunate to be accepted into Yale Camerata, part of Yale's Institute of Sacred Music, enjoying what I so enjoyed at Columbia as a Glee Club member. Many of my friends have been made singing in choirs all over the world. I count **Jon White** as one of them. Hope to see many of you at our 40th reunion next spring. Until then … ."

Nikolas Tsakos, founder, president and CEO of Tsakos Energy Navigation Limited, received the 2024 Capital Link Greek Shipping Leadership Award for his outstanding contribution to Greek and global shipping.

During Covid-19, **Jonathan Reich** SEAS'86, a practicing cardiologist for 25 years as well as an aerospace engineer (having earned both a master's in engineering, and an M.D. from the University of Miami), became interested in Charles Lindbergh. After reading Lindbergh's biography Jon chose to investigate his wartime legacy, which led to a new book, *A Convenient Villain: Charles A. Lindbergh's remarkable and controversial legacy preparing the U.S. for war.* Jon's book sheds light on this maligned aviator, scientific innovator and WWII spy and has uncovered surprising insight into the intelligence and engineering contributions of Lindbergh that allowed the United States to win WWII.

Mike Hadley, who has a video production company, was involved periodically with the Columbia Alumni Association's Columbia University Club of New Jersey, especially during the pandemic. "All the events were virtual at the time (as was so much of life) and I would edit them" to help out the process, he says.

And **Andrew Hayes** is practicing law but also incubating a business to install smart, secure, street-level e-bike storage and safe battery charging; looking to start by the fall. "Also, saw my son Liam SEAS'23, '24 graduate — a special five-year B.S. and B.A. program that requires completion of all of the Engineering Core, plus all of the College Core. Why pay four years of tuition when you can pay for five?"

As for yours truly, the first half of the year was a medical roller coaster for us. My wife, Allison BC'86, was scheduled to have back surgery in late January, and the pre-op tests discovered a tumor in her lung. Beyond fortunately, the tumor had not spread and was removed easily. Shortly after her lung surgery, I had cataract surgery in my eyes, following up from last year's detached retina. The initial results are promising; it is so easy to take one's vision for granted. And after I recovered, Allison returned for the delayed back surgery. We are looking forward to a quiet and I hope healthy summer.

1986

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Sam Abrams TC'18 is back in New York from Finland, having completed a one-year Fulbright appointment. He's again at Columbia, running a research center at Teachers College and teaching courses there in education policy, as well as a section of CC across the street (this past spring they discussed Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morals*).

Congrats to **Bill Teichner** on the 25th anniversary of the small-cap value stock strategy that he co-manages and co-founded at Frontier Capital Management in Boston. Bill gets a longevity award for working at Frontier since 1992, shortly after earning a Harvard M.B.A.

Drop me a line if anyone in our class has worked at the same company longer than Bill.

We have two sad updates.

Howie Oster's son Amichai died while serving in the Israeli Army. Howie writes: "Amichai fell in battle in Gaza on Jan. 1, 2024. He was traveling in the United States on his post-army trek, and heard the call to serve on Simchat Torah. He got back as soon as he could."

Amichai was a sergeant in the Army Reserves. He moved to Israel from Cleveland with his family when he was 1. He planned to complete the Israel National Trail, a 683-mile route that traverses the country from north to south. After the war, he also planned to return to the U.S. and continue his travels before starting university.

Our condolences to Howie; his wife, Marcy; their daughters, Sarah, Emunah and Tova; and their son Jonathan.

I heard the sad news from **Sam Abrams** that **Jon Margolis** passed away from pancreatic cancer in December 2023. Sam was a close friend of Jon, and even signed the ketubah at Jon's wedding. "After graduating from Columbia with a major in history, Jon went to NYU Law and then practiced corporate law at Reid & Priest (now Thelen) for several years before working solo as a legal researcher. He loved visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art and spent countless hours in the library there studying art history. Most of all, he relished taking long walks with friends in Central Park, which he knew as well as anyone."

Our condolences to Jon's family and friends.

1987

Sarah A. Kass
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I start this issue's column with a wonderfully inspiring story from **Nancy Rabinowitz Friedman:** "In May 2020, during the lockdown, I started volunteering with an as-yet unnamed group of 15 people (not even really an organization yet), helping to recruit poll workers for the 2020 federal election. (It was during Covid-19, and since most poll workers are older, they understandably didn't want to go work the polls.) By November, I was supervising a group of 250 volunteers. Together, we recruited 2,500 poll workers across three states, enabling hundreds of polling sites to open that year.

"Fast forward to 2022, we were back at it, working to elect Democrats to State Legislatures in Michigan, Arizona and Pennsylvania. Out of the 17 candidates we played a part in helping, 16 won!

"Now, for 2024, we've started a whole new initiative, DJs at the Polls, a national, non-partisan get-out-the-vote initiative that turns Election Day into a celebration. In November, we'll have DJs entertaining and energizing voters at more than 10,000 polling sites around the country. And I'm no longer a volunteer! As deputy director of the program, I'm responsible for national partnerships, celebrity relations, media and communications. I'm proud to be a part of the work of reminding people that democracy is something to celebrate. And I want to point out that even at 'this stage' of life, it's not impossible to reinvent yourself. Until I started volunteering in 2020, I'd never done any political work. Now I'm overseeing the deployment of thousands of DJs to states across the country. There's still hope for the country … and for us all!"

All I can say is, "Wow!"

In other news, **Diane Hilal-Campo,** whom you might recall launched the first ophthalmologist-owned-and-formulated eye makeup line, Twenty/Twenty Beauty, in August 2021, wrote: "My lash and brow serum, Get Growing, won *Vogue*'s 2024 award for Best Lengthening Lash Serum. The eyebrow gel won New Beauty's 2024 award for best Eyebrow Tinted Brow Gel. The mascara won *Good Housekeeping*'s 2024 Best Mascara for Sensitive, Dry Eyes and was one of Oprah's favorite things for summer last summer.

"I have spoken at the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Women in Ophthalmology twice. It has been exciting and rewarding to get emails from people who are so grateful because they cannot tolerate other eye makeup brands but can tolerate mine. We are sold DTC on our website and Amazon, and as a new distribution model for eye makeup we are being sold out of eye doctors' offices. Currently, 700 eye doctors' offices in the United States and Canada sell the products. I have loved my career as an eye surgeon, and this has been a fun passion project for me."

Diane's products are eye safe, vegan and cruelty free, as she says the current commercially available eye beauty products have chemicals that are damaging women's eyes, and causing and exacerbating dry eyes. "This is a huge problem right now, and I made this line as a healthier alternative," she said.

Leah Karliner '88 and **Descartes Li,** a professor and vice-chair for education at the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, met in Lit Hum in 1985 and recently went on a five-day kayaking trip together to Baja.

Charles Blass sent greetings from Switzerland, where he is actively co-evolving nao.is (networked autonomous organism) in collaboration with weco.io (wecollective), www.csensemakers.com (common sensemakers), perma.earth (permaculture colab), kernel.community, collaborative.tech (collaborative technology alliance), co-intelligence.institute and more; this is driving an ecosystemic convergence of groups and projects, tools and toolkits for interoperability and wise collaboration. He also still works at the radio station lora.ch 97.5FM Zurich.

Lloyd Lim is teaching a short course on movie westerns in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute run locally at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

I recently learned to like Westerns and now understand their place in American culture. I, for one, would love to see Lloyd's syllabus! He added that he has been nursing a shin splint for months, so he has been practicing piano entirely without the damper pedal. He says it "actually has very beneficial effects."

Ara Kouchakdjian wrote: "I have been busy raising four teenagers. Each is unique and a blessing in their own way. My best half, Lisa, is vice-chair of the Select Board in our town. After being a part of one more acquisition (was this number 3 or number 4?), I run product development for Securitas Healthcare, the leader in the hospital and senior living safety/security solutions. I've spent many years running product management and product strategy, and now I've added engineering to my portfolio. I am having fun with all the new challenges! In my limited free time, I run a group for fathers of kids with special needs."

Steve Abrahamson has a new role: "Since November I have been VP of membership and advocacy at the National Audubon Society. Still based in our New York City headquarters office at Varick and Houston streets, I oversee our supporter engagement, advocacy and campaigns team in addition to membership fundraising for the organization. This year we will focus on Get Out the Vote efforts as well as launch campaigns in support of the climate policy and conservation goals in our new strategic plan."

And of course, another of Steve's claims to fame is being married to my dear, dear Hunter College H.S. friend Maritza Guzman SIPA'90!

Thomas Jacoby moved his dental practice from 501 Madison Ave., where he'd been for 27 years, to 37 E. 28th St. He says, "It's an amazing neighborhood, and our patients really love it! Lots of affordable restaurants and stores, and a great, international, urban vibe. We couldn't be happier!"

And finally, a note from the amazing **Judy Kim,** who is back in New York City: "I am now at BBVA (Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria), in global markets, where I am enjoying my return to the trading floor! Feel like it is 1987 … ."

1988

Eric Fusfield
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Our talented and creative class has added to its noteworthy and varied accomplishments recently. **Jim Bernfield** SOA'01 has "produced and directed a documentary, *Me to Play,* which started its festival run at the Slamdance Film Festival, won awards at festivals around the world and is now in wide digital release on iTunes, Amazon Prime Video, AppleTV+, Fandor, Tubi, Roku and likely anywhere else people stream video. The film, shot in part in Columbia's Miller Theatre, follows two actors with Parkinson's disease as they mount an Off-Broadway production of Samuel Beckett's comedic masterpiece, *Endgame,* which Beckett wrote, in part, as a metaphor for life with Parkinson's after caring for his mother, who died from the disease. While it sounds a little grim, the film proves Beckett's point that 'There's nothing funnier than unhappiness.'"

Adrienne Brodeur has made her own creative contribution with *Little Monsters,* her latest novel. The book was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice and a *Vogue* Best Book of the Year (2023).

Thomas Cornfield is "enjoying travel, playing guitar, doing artwork — and a financial planner with MassMutual."

Bittersweet news from **Laurence Holzman** LAW'92 in Westchester, who indicated that he and **Felicia Needleman Levinson** co-wrote the book and lyrics for *The Jerusalem Syndrome,* a musical comedy that ran Off-Broadway last fall at The Theatre at St. Jeans. "The show is about a real psychological condition that causes seemingly 'normal' tourists in Jerusalem to experience a mental breakdown and come to believe they are Jesus or Moses or some other character from the Bible," Laurence said. "There are approximately 200 documented cases of this syndrome every year, and it doesn't happen in any other city in the world! Learn more at thejerusalemsyndrome.com.

"Laurence and Felicia met in 'Modern Drama' class at Columbia and wrote together for 35 years until last July, when Felicia passed away after a battle with metastatic breast cancer." I learned from Rachel Stoll '92 that her brother **David Stoll** also passed away recently. I didn't know David well, although I remember living on his floor in Furnald senior year. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct, for more on Felicia and David.]

My subsequent email correspondence with Rachel touched not only on her brother's life but also on lessons about how we can all best live our own lives. I'm spending so much of my time at B'nai B'rith International consumed with antisemitism these days that my wife is concerned it is affecting my mental health.

Rachel shared with me her beautiful wisdom for the middle-aged soul: "Get outside as much as you can. This year will kill us all if we are not careful, just too much to bear, FAR too much anxiety. Time among trees and birds is not just a cliche — it can really help. I'm off to the woods right now, in part to scope out maple trees for my son and me to tap soon (my brother and I lived very different lives!). Just please walk outside as much as you can. Your wife is right! We are not helpful to anyone if we fall to pieces or cannot sleep properly, if we are easy to anger and blood pressure rising. Take care! I mean it, mister! Also, beyond the outdoors, I am finding listening to good klezmer music helps. It's all there."

1989

Emily Miles Terry
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In the aftermath of the terrorist attack by Hamas, I have received notes from classmates who are troubled and struggling with their relationship with Columbia due to antisemitism, among other things on campus. Most of the notes I've received are too private to publish in this column. I mention this because our class has always been unusually collegial, supportive and friendly, and most of us are trying to find ways to be supportive by reaching out to friends. If I can help connect you with someone you have lost contact with, please email me. I'd be more than happy to help. Also, our Facebook group continues to be a great place to connect with classmates and find support. It's called "Columbia University Class of 1989 Undergraduates," but if you can't find it, email me and I will send you the link. Or you can message **Jared Goldstein** through Facebook.

In March, **George Guida** published a novel, his 10th, *The Uniform.* Its opening chapter is set at Columbia during the 1968 student uprising. Kirkus Reviews calls it "A powerful story of personal failure and reinvention." George writes that the novel is about difficult love, ambition, race, law, disappointment, redemption and the tension between obligation and freedom. George lives in Western New York, where he and his wife "run an arts series in our cafe, but we have an apartment in the New York area because we're both CUNY professors."

I heard from **Samantha Jouin,** who works at Johnson & Johnson focusing on leading operations relating to emerging government policy. Samantha wrote in about a bike trip she and her husband, Francois, did through Puglia, Italy. "On weekends, we like to go on more local outings, i.e., hiking, checking out local craft fairs, going to museums and restaurants in Philly, or going to see our son in Pittsburgh or our daughter in Brooklyn. Once we retire or shift to more part-time work, we look forward to spending several months a year in France, where I lived for 10 years after graduating from CC."

Galen Sorrells wrote in from the Bay Area, "I have 8-year-old identical twins and spend most of my time managing their schedules. For fun, I spend time with friends and family and identifying opportunities to travel now that we are getting past the impact of Covid-19." Galen was looking forward to seeing everyone at reunion.

John Kim lives in Midtown East with his spouse, Wynne, and kids, Audrey, Curran and Violet. John writes that they travel often "but always return home believing that New York is the best city." Last fall John ran the NYC Marathon, his third marathon since 2019. Of the race John says, "Training in Central Park is such a pleasure. I took up running after years of club and league Ultimate Frisbee. I finally came to accept that I was too old and too slow to compete with 20- and 30-year-olds."

Tim Kelly is still the mayor of Chattanooga, of which he writes, "It is both a great honor and a great challenge." Aside from mayoring, Tim loves to play soccer when he can: "I did not play soccer at Columbia, but starting playing in adult leagues (always a goalkeeper) soon after coming back to Chattanooga from NYC. That led me to co-founding Chattanooga FC, which has become a prolific independent team in American soccer (and is now led by Alton Byrd '79!). It is a true community club and was the first American sports team to offer fans ownership through the equity crowdfunding rules in Obama's Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act."

Last fall Tim's team played for a national championship. He writes, "If we don't win, I'll still be on a field on Sundays playing 'pub soccer' until I just can't do it anymore … ."

Peter Saint-Andre writes, "After 25 years working on internet technologies (my final gig was on the Mozilla Firefox team), I retired early in 2022. These days I'm advising a few startup founders, teaching English as a second language to Ukrainian refugees, raising a therapy dog and writing a book about Aristotle's conception of human flourishing. It's a big change from my very active career, and I'm loving it!"

Peter lives on five acres about 20 miles outside of Denver and says, "Having grown up in Maine, I don't miss those snowy New England winters."

Attending the "CCW at OMCA After Dark" event on Feb. 29 at the Oakland Museum of California were, left to right: Lindsay Lyu '13; Kenyatta Monroe-Sinkler '91; Mary Ann Bonet Guardia '10, OMCA's senior director of learning, experience and programming, and the tour guide for the event; Angela Eaton '91; Tova Ricardo '21; and Divya Singh '87.

Though this column is for CC'89, one of the best things about going to Columbia for many of us was the opportunity to study and socialize with students at GS, BC and SEAS. As a Columbia student I met Lisa Rosen Metsch GS'90 through Kappa Alpha Theta and have followed her success and scholarship since. Back then Lisa was engaged in research around the AIDS epidemic. Today, in addition to being the first alumna dean of GS, Lisa is a medical sociologist and an internationally recognized scholar. Her work has focused on the social determinants of health with special attention on access to care for persons living with HIV and substance use disorders. As dean, Lisa co-teaches undergraduates, has significantly increased fundraising for financial aid scholarships, created and launched international dual-degree programs and created initiatives focused on social justice and women student veterans. I am so thrilled to have had the opportunity in May to attend an event honoring Lisa's work and scholarship at Columbia/Barnard Hillel.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
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Greetings to all, and let the countdown begin to our 35th reunion, less than a year away! Kudos to everyone who attended our 30th on Zoom (does Covid-19 feel like a long time ago?) and let's make a concerted effort to attend in person in 2025.

Nuptial news first: **Melissa Steinman** married her "love of eight years, Mihnea Stan, in June 2023 at the District Winery in Washington, D.C. A small contingent of my Columbia besties were there, including **Chris Alexander, Liz Lubow Poston, Amy Zalman** and **Laura Schiele Robinson,** and while a few others (**Claudine Wolas Shiva, Bob Giannasca, Steve Descoteaux**) could not make it on the big day, we caught up with them on our travels last spring and summer. We also had Columbia in the wedding party — my oldest son, Charlie Steinman, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in medieval history at Columbia; and my sister, Lori Landau Dyer, who did a post-baccalaureate year at GS in 1994 and conducted research at VPS. A good time was had by all.

"After two weeks in Hawai'i, it was back to work as a partner at the Venable law firm, where I have spent the last 30 years (!) counseling clients on a mix of advertising, promotions, sweepstakes, gaming, consumer protection, e-commerce, intellectual property and consumer product safety issues. It's never boring!"

Vera Scanlon married Martin Walsh in December at St. Boniface Parish in Brooklyn, N.Y., with a reception at The Sanctuary, on Roosevelt Island. (See "Just Married!" for a photo!) In the professional news department, since 2012 Vera has been a magistrate judge in Brooklyn for the Eastern District of New York. She is active in civic education efforts, including leading an arts and the judiciary project with high school and middle school students.

Next category: empty nesters. **Laura Marks** SIPA'96 writes: "**Rachel Cowan** married my beloved cousin Mike Jacobs many moons ago, so I had the great pleasure of celebrating their daughter's bat mitzvah in October with family and friends! It's hard to believe that Jeremy Buchman '91 and I celebrated our 21st anniversary this spring, and that he's been teaching political science at LIU/Post for even longer. (OK, maybe that part does feel like that long.) Our older son recently finished his sophomore year at Pitzer College, where he's majoring in critical global studies and art, and spent the spring semester in Nepal. Our younger son recently graduated from high school and heads to Vassar College in the fall. In November 2023, I became executive director of the Coalition to Cure CHD2, a patient-advocacy organization aiming to accelerate research to find a cure for CHD2-related disorders. The chromodomain helicase DNA binding protein 2 (CHD2) gene was identified 10 years ago and is associated with intractable epilepsy, intellectual disability and autism, among other things.

"I've spent most of my career working for international human rights organizations, including the last 15 years focusing on Afghanistan, but I was drawn to CCC because of my close family connection to epilepsy: My older sister was diagnosed in early childhood with epilepsy and an intellectual disability, and our younger son developed seizures when he was 3, soon after being diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis complex, a genetic neurocutaneous disease that is also associated with epilepsy, intellectual disability and autism. I am deeply humbled and grateful for our son's relatively good health, and for all of the outstanding medical care and support he's had through the years, and I'm glad to have the opportunity to give back in this way. And if there are any researchers out there looking for an exciting gene to study, please reach out!"

John Vincenti reports he and his wife, Robyn, are "about to become empty nesters when younger son Andrew '28 joins his brother Alexander '26 at Columbia College in the fall (gasp!). We are very happy for Andrew, and plan to celebrate by taking many long exotic vacations without our children. Additional good news: Volunteering on the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors means I get to see a lot of CC'90 alums, including **Sherri Pancer Wolf, Ben Cosgrove, Margaret Flynn Robison, James Stone** and of course, my Carman 8 floormate **Judy Shampanier.**"

The WKCR Latín Department had a gathering on Feb. 11. Joining were, left to right: Frankie Melendez, Sadys Rodrigo Espitia '91, Jose Calderon and German Santana '97.

Alicia Katz Shems and her husband, Nessy, "are approaching our 30th wedding anniversary and plan to celebrate by going on a hiking tour in the Dolomites in July. Our children, Matthew (27) and Leah (24), have flown the coop, and live in Denver and NYC, respectively. Luckily, we like both cities, and I get to relive my youth and college years visiting Leah. Both Ness and I work from home now after Covid-19, which is rather nice, though I had celebrated the end of making lunches when the kids went to college, and now I'm back doing it!

"Although I still love creating mixed media art, I haven't had much time to show my work the past few years, as I have been working full time as a content manager at a fintech startup and enjoying the teamwork and frenetic pace. I've kept in touch with a few friends from Columbia and keep meaning to go to a reunion one day to catch up with others, but it's always on the weekend of my mom's birthday. Anyway, the last 34 years has a telescopic feeling — depending on the view, it seems really far away since our college days on the quad or just like last week. Hope everyone from the Class of 1990 is healthy and thriving!"

Sean Ryan closes out the column. "My wife and I recently moved back to NYC (the Village) after 30-plus years on the West Coast, primarily to be closer to my brothers and father, as well as to Barcelona, where we live part of the year. I have a gaming startup, and my wife helps lead a nonprofit ed tech, Talking Points. It's been great to reconnect with classmates, and I look forward to being more involved in the Columbia community now that I'm back in the city."

Yoo-hoo, Reunion Committee, I think I have a lead on a new member.

1991

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As I write this, spring has sprung, the weather is improving and views from campus show a return to the Steps and the many abundant green spaces on campus. It has been so wonderful to hear from so many of you!

Yours truly, **Heather Brownlie,** welcomed a sixth grandchild, granddaughter Quinn Niamh Smith, on Feb. 25.

Chapin Clark checked in with this "important milestone: I recently made my final alimony payment! After 10 years of ruinous monthly checks, I'm done. Life is short? Not when it comes to alimony. In the immortal words of Jeb Bush, 'please clap.' In other life news, this year I celebrate my 23rd anniversary at the same advertising agency where I have been a copywriter and creative director since 2001. In case you are unaware, advertising is only slightly more forgiving of aging than the society depicted in *Logan's Run.* Once you turn 30, they don't kill you, but you'd better be thinking about your next move. So just to have a job is a small miracle. Life is good!"

Virginia Cornish, the Helena Rubinstein Chair in the Department of Chemistry and a founding member of the Department of Systems Biology at Columbia, participated in a Jan. 17 program, "Women at the Podium: Synthetic Biology: A New Therapeutic Platform," sponsored by the Columbia College Alumni Association. Mila Tuttle '96, SIPA'05 was the moderator; the program discussed Virginia's research engineering living yeast as biosensors and therapeutics. Her laboratory continues its pioneering research in yeast synthetic biology on the 12th floor of the Northwest Corner Building on campus. They currently are writing for publication two new applications of their living yeast biosensor technology. They also are writing their first application of a living yeast therapeutic. In addition to her research, Virginia taught "Organic Chemistry" and "Chemical Biology" courses last fall.

Marc Eisenberg VPS'95 continues to practice cardiology in New York City. His latest book, *Am I Dying?!: A Complete Guide to Your Symptoms — and What to Do Next,* has been translated into 16 languages.

Noah Elkin shared, "In August I relocated to Atlanta after a lifetime of living in the Northeast. My wife, Barbara Krauthamer, started a job as dean of Emory College. Soon after the move, I reconnected with **Mark**

Ellingson, whom I hadn't seen since the year after graduation. By chance, it turned out we live in the same neighborhood! Mark is a runner like me, and he graciously invited me to join a running group that meets locally a couple of mornings each week.

"Professionally, I'm entering my ninth year at Gartner, having spent six years as an analyst in the marketing practice, including a stint as the chief of research, and two years managing an analyst team in the sales practice. In March, I started a job as a managing VP in the human resources practice, leading a team of analysts focused on HR technologies. My job at Gartner has always been remote, so that part of the move was easy at least!"

Noah would love to hear from classmates or other fellow Columbians in the greater Atlanta area: ncelkin@gmail.com.

Seth Goldsamt LAW'95 provided this update: "I attended the Law School with several fellow Columbians, including **Josh Saltman** LAW'94; Erin Zyko Hussein '92, LAW'95; Tracy Cole '90, LAW'95; and Benjamin Lawsky '92, LAW'95. I am a partner at McGuireWoods, an international law firm. I work out of its New York office on mergers and acquisitions and other transactional matters. A number of my clients are in the technology, media and telecommunications industry. I recently saw **Stephen Jansen** at a presentation about a film project under development with which I am involved.

"My wife, Nina, and I have been married almost 25 years. She is from Denmark, and we met while waiting for a bus at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, not often considered a romantic spot! After many years in Manhattan, we now live in Larchmont, N.Y. (just north of NYC). We have two children, Anna and Mathias, both of whom attend Mamaroneck H.S., where Anna just finished her senior year. Our family's big news is that Anna will be part of the Class of '28!"

Our congratulations to the Goldsamt family on this accomplishment, and welcome Anna!

Kenyatta Monroe-Sinkler worked on a Columbia College Women event recently and reports: "On Feb. 29, CCW hosted a meetup at the Oakland Museum of California. The group enjoyed a cooking demo from chef Michelle McQueen and a special tour of *Por El Pueblo: The Legacy & Influence of Malaquías Montoya,* led by Mary Ann Bonet Guardia '10, OMCA's senior director of learning, experience and programming. Kenyatta is a co-chair of the CCW Board and would especially love to hear any ideas for programming in the Bay Area." See the nearby photo!

Sadys Rodrigo Espitia checked in: "I'm the assistant manager for research and competitive intelligence at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, a Midtown law firm specializing in restructuring and corporate M&A. I help to manage the research team, and spearhead attorney outreach and training initiatives on different research resources. My fun update is that you can catch me on our own WKCR 89.9FM NY Fridays 10–11 p.m. hosting *Sonidos Colombianos,* the longest-running bilingual FM-radio program in NYC, featuring the music of Colombia. (Not Columbia, lol.) I started the show during senior year, and 33 years later it's still going strong. And my update gets better! Since 2013, I've been playing cumbias and vallenatos on the squeezebox in Bryant Park's annual Accordions Around the World series." See the nearby photo!

Reminder to all that if you participated in Class Day or Columbia Reunion 2024, please take a moment to send me your latest news and updates, and I'll share them in a future issue. Write to me at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos that feature at least two CC alumni should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Looking forward to receiving more news and notes and your amazing photos for a future issue!

1992

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Hello, classmates!

Peter Hatch wrote in about the sold-out 2024 John Jay Awards Dinner, at which **Dane Holmes** was one of the honorees.

"**Wah Chen** helped organize a table so a group of '92ers could cheer him on together. Seated with Dane and his wife, Barbara, were Wah, **Jared Clark, Karl Cole-Frieman** and his wife, Wanda Cole-Frieman BC'94, **John Marciano, Eddie Rodriguez, Farnaz Vossoughian** and me," Peter said.

"Also repping '92 that night were **Joan Campion,** who recently had her second child (congratulations again!), and **Chris McGowan,** who serves with me on the College's Board of Visitors," he added.

Congrats, Joan!

And I got a wonderful note from **Cary Hall,** who has recently become a full-time attorney in the Montgomery County Public Defender office after two decades as a solo attorney. (That's Montgomery County, Pa., not Md. It's the third most populous county in the state after Philadelphia and Pittsburgh/Allegheny Counties.)

"Folks have offered me congratulations, but to keep a 'normal' work schedule now and have a boss again?! But I was obviously ready for a change, and a surprising slew of veteran attorneys have made their way to that office — now including me. Steady paycheck and benefits? It's admittedly a perk I'll learn to endure, heh, and I'll continue to keep my solo practice on the side," Cary wrote.

He is also active in the Montgomery Bar Association as a director and as co-chair of the Solo/Small Firm Committee.

"It's a living, and I occasionally even make a difference, so there," he said.

Cary is also pursuing his quest to visit every Pennsylvania State Park, "which began during Covid-19 to maintain a vestige of sanity."

He's checked off 83 of the 124 parks!

"I'm especially lucky to live in an area where a hike's thirst can be quenched at a local brewery wherever you find yourself. In theory, the caloric input/output of such days should be a wash, but the input has been gaining traction as of late, ugh," Cary said, relatably.

"Did I mention I still also play guitar in local classic rock bands? Even grew the locks long again years ago to complete the circle that began while a Columbia undergrad. Fight the power, and never grow old, kids."

That's all for now!

1993

Neil Turitz
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Greetings, all. I hope everyone has been well since the last update. Before we get started, I want to address something that many, many of you have mentioned to me offline: concern about events on campus. I cannot, unfortunately, get into it at all in this space, but suffice to say that I also have grave concerns, and in fact, resigned my fundraising position over it. If anyone wants to discuss further, please contact me at the listed email address and I will be happy to talk about it.

Now, on to your updates, and there are *a lot* of them! Many from old friends.

Frequent flyer **Rebecca Boston** SIPA'94 earned a small promotion and department change in November, and is now doing HR work for the property management division of local government in Baltimore and is planning her first trip to France for the fall. "Paris only," she says, "so if anyone has any secret must-sees or must-dos, happy to have them shared."

New old friend **Jennifer Anglade Dahlberg,** who was kind of the star of last year's reunion, said she loved meeting classmates at reunion and is adjusting to not being a current Columbia parent since her daughter Yasmine '23 graduated. The English version of her Swedish novel, *A Norn in Bloom,* was released last summer. She is keeping busy writing the sequel, which is good because I picked up a copy and am excited to read it. Jennifer will connect with **Alan Freeman** and his family on their trip to Stockholm this summer, saying, "Our reunion created that connection!"

Sophomore-year roommate **Marc Braveman** wrote to brag that he can now do a helicopter on skis, which is admittedly impressive, while **Yumi Koh** wrote that she joined Merrill Private Wealth Management last year after five years at J.P. Morgan Private Bank in Atlanta. "Ironically," she said, "I began my career after graduating from Columbia in the investment banking division of JPMorgan Chase in NYC and am grateful for my eight years at the firm."

Adrian Bordoni TC'98, aka The Perfesser, is celebrating 20 years teaching at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice as an adjunct, and 14 years at Queensborough Community College as a criminal justice lecturer. Adrian has developed the international program Global Connections with CETYS University, a private Mexican University with locations in Tijuana, Ensenada and Mexicali.

First-year suitemate **Peter Viola** and I connected for the first time since graduation, which was a lovely surprise. Pete lives in Cleveland and has been an educator, coach and academic adviser for three decades. He's now transitioning into the field of teen/success coaching through his GRIND programming (gratitude, respect, integrity, never-quit and discipline). This year he has published three books, *Hip Hop History: The Narrative of United States History through Rap and Spoken Word; Woken Words: Thoughts from the Laundry Room;* and *Preparing for the "GRIND": Real Talk for those Considering a Career in Teaching.*

Varsity Show vet, and former drinking buddy, **John Mathews** wrote to talk about his new "happy addiction": community theater. "In February, I auditioned on a whim for *The 39 Steps* by Patrick Barlow, and got the part!" he said of the resurrection of his acting career. He has now performed in four shows, including *The Play That Goes Wrong; Murder on the Orient Express;* and *Noises Off.* "Suffice to say I have an incredibly fun new hobby, and I love every minute of it!"

Another old friend, **Andy Schmeltz,** sent a photo of himself with his annual New Year's Eve crew and AEPi brothers, **Andrew Ceresney, David Lerner** and Adam Towvim '92. The four of them and their families have spent almost every NYE together for the last 30 years. Collectively, their families have many Columbia ties, including Andy's son Jacob '24. Each of the gentlemen sent in updates, too.

Schmeltz left Pfizer last May after 20 years to become EVP of CSL Behring, an Australian biopharmaceutical company focused on plasma-derived therapies for rare diseases. He still lives in Montclair, N.J., but travels to Australia several times a year.

Ceresney was exceedingly proud that his oldest son, Ethan, graduated from Tulane in May and is now working in Dallas at an aviation software company doing marketing. "Not only are Rachel [née Levine BC'92] and I empty nesters (our younger son, Jonah, is a sophomore at BU) but now one of our sons is self-supporting (for the most part). Doesn't get much better than that!"

Lerner wrote from Lexington, Mass., where he has been the rabbi of Temple Emunah for the last 20 years. "The rabbinate has its challenges and long hours, but it is also incredibly meaningful work, and I am grateful to serve such a warm and welcoming community," he said. He also mentioned daughter Talya BC'23 and sons Ari, who finished his first year at WashU in St. Louis, and Matan, a junior in high school, as well as his wife, Sharon Levin BC'93, SW'95, who has a psychotherapy practice in town. He added, "I feel blessed to have these friendships for 35 years!"

Jenn Broekman and her husband, Blair Seidler SEAS'91 (Ph.D. Rutgers '23), are both teaching high school. They now have two grandchildren (!), thanks to Kat Denney '18 (née Broekman, Ph.D. Stony Brook '23). Jenn said, "I'm thinking about going back to grad school, but I'll probably wait until our younger child, Elizabeth (Hampshire '22) graduates from the Syracuse Library and Information Science grad program."

Ken Ehrenberg GSAS'05 and his two older daughters (10 and 7) became U.K. citizens this past winter, joining his youngest (5), who already was a citizen, as Ken and his family were granted permanent residency last year. "I'm professor of jurisprudence and philosophy at the University of Surrey, where I am also co-director of the Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy, the largest research center in the world devoted to issues in philosophy of law. We live in Golders Green in northwest London."

TIMOTHY TUTTLE

Susan Philip '95 (bottom row, left) and her partner, Timothy Tuttle, hosted a dinner party for classmates on Jan. 20 at their home in San Francisco. Joining were (clockwise from middle left) Percival Cueva '95, Mike Cabotaje '95, John Tang LAW'96, Emily Hu '95, Mohit Daswani '95 and Sejal Patel Daswani '95.

And, finally, there is **Ezra Kenigsberg,** who sent in a lengthy update, most of which is too much for this space (sorry, kid!), but here's the important stuff: He, his wife and his daughter live in Austin. He recently started a job at Canva and loves it so far. He's taken up running and has done a couple half-marathons and has joined the board of his local synagogue. Daughter Lila will have her bat mitzvah next February.

Ezra also sent in updates about my sophomore suitemate **Adam Fels,** who went skydiving with his daughter Sasha when she turned 18 recently, and **Dave Kardon,** who lives in San Francisco, has become a vegan and apparently still shoots a mean game of pocket billiards.

See? An *action-packed* update! So many stories from so many people! Are you inspired to reach out for the next issue? You should be! Don't make me fabricate stuff about you! Because I totally will!

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTES PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least two College alumni.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

1994

Kathryn Hudacek Harlow
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Our 30th reunion was held May 30–June 1, and this milestone brought us back to the texts that bond our class, and all classes that have had the privilege of the Core Curriculum. Alright. Maybe you've you forgotten our intensive study of Western culture? Really, how often do you consider Aeschylus' dramas when paying taxes? ("Inferno" comes faster during tax season.) *This* season, messages from classmates referred to our days speed reading and note taking, and our sophomoric attempts to rationalize our most important courses while we were on campus decades ago.

Marc Samir Sharifi is surrounded by great tomes, as he manages the preservation and renovation of the historic library and Long Room at Trinity College, Dublin, established in the 17th century as a theological repository, especially for the Protestant Reformation. Marc spends time among antique volumes of Core readings like *Confessions* by St. Augustine and *Summa Theologica* by Thomas Aquinas. In the 19th century the library collections gradually became more secular. He writes, "You'd find familiar philosophical texts by Nietzsche and Wittgenstein and also early printed editions by Jane Austen, Fyodor Dostoevsky and of course all the seminal Irish writers like Wilde, Beckett and Joyce." Aside from the wealth of knowledge Marc has access to, he describes Trinity as "a stunning building on a gorgeous campus, so I hope people get the chance to visit it." He has been living in Dublin for six years and is returning home to New York City this summer. He looks forward to catching up with classmates.

Richard R. Waterfield recognizes that “the Core did much to inspire my love of learning, and my high regard for education in general. I credit Columbia for much of my success, and plan to support the school as much as I am able, as all Columbia graduates should.” As such, Richard recently funded, and will continue to fund, Columbia’s Waterfield Family Core Faculty Endowment to Advance the Core Curriculum at Columbia, “a brilliant program I feel heavily indebted to intellectually.” Hold on to your hat: Richard’s successes and activities are abundant. He is chair and CEO of Waterfield Enterprises, a global investment and technology organization he founded in 1998. Richard promotes learning by sitting on the board of Canterbury School in Northern Indiana and the board of Culver Summer Schools & Camps, first as co-chair of the Diversity Committee, with a special emphasis on American Indian heritage, and then as chair of the board. Further, he founded YPO Northern Indiana, a 501(c)(3) focused on CEO learning that now has 35 active Northern Indiana CEO members. For the last decade he has been coaching a group of seven young, up-and-coming CEOs. “Coaching brings me energy and joy,” he says.

Richard also finds joy and imaginably a lot of schlepping around because his son, Indy, is one of the players on The Canterbury Football Club — travel soccer — focused on the Artist-Athlete-Scholar gold standard. As if that were not enough, Richard is restoring Roanoke, Ind., America’s quintessential small town.

Similarly running uptown and down is **Kim Yao,** living in lower Manhattan with her husband, Paul. “We have a daughter (17) who starts college in the fall, and a son (14) at Beacon H.S. Both are travel-soccer players. I have become a car-driving, enthusiastic soccer mom,” Kim writes. Kim continued to a master’s in architecture from Princeton. Then, “returned immediately to NYC and have lived and practiced here ever since. My husband is also an architect, although we each have our own firms.” After finishing graduate school, Kim joined Architecture Research Office, and in 2011 became a partner there. In addition to her practice, she became adjunct faculty in 2001 at various institutions including Barnard (which now runs the Department of Architecture that both Barnard and Columbia students attend) and GSAPP. She also is a lecturer at MIT in the architecture department. Kim’s firm recently completed the Center for the Study of Childhood Development at Barnard and has completed planning work for GSAPP. As if that were not enough accomplishment, Kim is on the executive committee and board of the Center for Architecture, and is a past president of AIA New York, NYC’s professional organization for architects. These roles, among other service, mentoring and advocacy positions, “have been both demanding and rewarding. Ultimately, they enable connections with a larger pool of professionals, or most importantly the broader public, relative to architecture and the built environment,” she notes.

If you keep up with the cultural, literary or late-’90s Chinese-television environment, you have likely seen the work of **Rachel DeWoskin,** who is a writer “thanks in large part to so many primary texts at Columbia! I recently published a collection of poetry (*absolute animal*), so have been on a book tour the last few months, which means seeing friends from all over, reading in glorious book shops and getting to be in conversation with writers I admire.”

Rachel is finishing a novel about murder and incarceration and working on a film adaptation of her most recent novel, *Banshee*, with Ally Sheedy. “I have two daughters, Dalin (19), an artist, and Light (16), a journalist. My husband, playwright Zayd Dorhn, and I spend a ton of time reading, writing, teaching and traveling with our girls. We are headed to Greece for a joint teaching gig this summer and working on an agitprop theater project with my favorite organization, Writers for Democratic Action, for which I sit on the Steering Committee.”

Rachel has an impressive bibliography that can be found on her eponymous website and has appeared on various podcasts sharing her unique insight in writing and the arts.

1995

Janet Lorin
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This update is all coming from the West Coast. Thanks to **Emily Hu** for sending the nearby photo and coordinating this update, and to **Susan Philip,** who hosted a dinner earlier this year for the classmates in the update.

Emily writes from San Francisco. She lives there with her husband, John Tang LAW’96, a securities litigation attorney at Jones Day, whom she met while a senior living in Furnald, and their boys, Derek (13) and Morgan (11).

“I am in year 20 of private practice in ob/gyn, which has been fulfilling and joyful,” Emily wrote. “It’s a busy life but always interesting and fresh.”

Emily also is medical director in a menopause care startup, Evernow, and teaches UCSF medical students as a member of clinical faculty.

“There are so many Lions on the West Coast, and we are always so happy to find and spend time with each other!” she writes.

Susan, who also lives in San Francisco with her partner, Timothy Tuttle, an MIT alumnus, hosted the gathering. She moved to the West Coast after earning an M.P.P. at Georgetown and has spent her career in health policy.

Susan was appointed in 2021 by Gov. Gavin Newsom as deputy director for health care delivery systems at California’s Department of Health Care Services, the state’s Medicaid agency. She oversees the Medi-Cal Managed Care program, home and community-based waiver programs and several initiatives under California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal, the state’s major Medicaid transformation initiative. She also sits on the board of San Francisco Safehouse and is part of the USTA tennis league in the Bay Area.

Susan comes back to New York regularly to spend time with her parents; brother, John Philip ’93; sister-in-law, Ashita Solanki BC’95; and nephews. She and Tim look forward to our 30th reunion.

Sejal Patel Daswani SIPA ’96 and **Mohit Daswani** have lived in the Bay Area for almost 19 years. They now live in Los Altos with their children (Naiya, 17; Siddhartha, 15; and Nysa, 8) and Labradoodles. Sejal is chief people officer at an HR-tech SaaS company, and Mohit is chief financial officer at an AI-data company. “We are active in the Columbia College Fund’s Fund Development Council and are enjoying helping to build the Columbia community here on the West Coast,” they wrote. “Look forward to seeing everyone at our 30th reunion!”

Mike Cabotaje writes about himself and **Percival Cueva:** “Percival and I have been together since our Columbia College days, and we managed to stick it through together through law school and medical school (me at UC Berkeley for law school and Percival at UC Davis for med school), and then through moves between San Francisco and Los Angeles in the couple of decades since then.”

Mike and Percival have been in San Francisco for about 20 years. Mike has been an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration since 2016, and before that he spent much of his career as a federal attorney at SSA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Percival is a longtime infectious disease physician with Kaiser. They have two girls, Kelsey (15) and Mary (6). “Our little family is just enjoying life in the Bay Area,” they write.

Congratulations to **Sharon Brous** GSAS’01 on her new book, *The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World.* She is the founding and senior rabbi of IKAR, a Jewish community based in Los Angeles, and wife of **David Light** SOA’02. Sharon penned an op-ed in *The New York Times* in January; see it online at bit.ly/4aWgv87.

1996

Ana Salper
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Happy summer, classmates! I have exciting news to report: **Julie Satow** SIPA’01, an award-winning journalist and author of *The Plaza: The Secret Life of America’s Most Famous Hotel,* recently published *When Women Ran Fifth Avenue: Glamour and Power at the Dawn of American Fashion.* I pre-ordered my copy months ago and can’t wait to read it; it’s about the golden age of American department stores and the three visionary women who led them. Go get it and read it!

Congratulations, Julie!

I recently ran into **Anastasia Thanopoulos** (née Yatrakis) in

Boerum Hill, Brooklyn, near our respective homes. It was great to catch up! Anastasia works in real estate/property management, and her husband, Billy Thanopoulos '95, owns a restaurant, two8two Bar & Burger, in Boerum Hill. Anastasia and Billy have three sons: George '27 (19), who completed his first year at the College (yay!); Niko (16); and Teddy (12). I am a big fan of two8two Bar & Burger, so I highly recommend it … and Anastasia would love any fellow CC'96ers in Brooklyn to visit it!

Lastly, I extend a public apology to **Jia Son**, whose name, school and graduation year were all printed incorrectly in the last *CCT* as a result of an editing error. It is the first time in my almost 30 years of writing these Class Notes that this has happened, and it is important for me to assure Jia and anyone who knows her and noticed the error that it will not happen again.

Alas, that is all I have this time around … I need more notes from everyone, please! Send me news of your lives! I leave you with this:

"An intellectual is someone whose mind watches itself."

— *Albert Camus*

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope that you are all enjoying a wonderful summer. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

Dorraine Burrell (née Hemchand) is happy to share that she and her husband, Dwight Burrell, whom she met at Columbia, recently celebrated 18 years of marriage. Their sons, Elijah and Lucas, are 14 and 11, respectively. Lucas was accepted to Newark Academy in Livingston, N.J., and will join his brother there in the fall. Elijah finished his freshman year in high school and did well in French honors and algebra/trig honors. Dorraine trained for the Brooklyn Half, which took place on May 18. She is in her second year as sales director with Cboe Global Markets, risk and market analytics, and in her fourth year as a member of the Board of Directors of an NGO, HealthRight International, which increases health equity globally. She also shares that she is a cancer survivor.

Mike Pignatello is returning to Taipei this summer, along with his husband and their twin boys, for his next assignment with the Department of State.

Endre Tvinnereim is a professor of political science at the University of Bergen. Last fall he rejoined the Bergen Cathedral Choir.

Rachel Yoskowitz writes: "I was flooded with so many memories last August when I had the honor to move my son into his dorm for the start of his journey at Columbia College. Although it was a tumultuous first year, he thoroughly enjoyed the Core Curriculum and all of his classes and professors. I've learned that the Core has some new additions, like Frontiers of Science. He won't be able to frequent Ollie's, The West End or Abbey Pub but he has visited The Hungarian Pastry Shop and enjoyed the coffee while discussing Lit Hum assignments. Truly the best campus in the world."

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell,** as I sit here wrapping up this column, it is late March and I have been enjoying our town's annual Easter festivities alongside my 7-year-old daughter. Here in Celebration, Fla., we always love to see our annual Easter parade, which features a caravan of decorated golf carts with the Easter Bunny riding in one of them. One week prior to Easter, the parade loops all around town and if the Easter Bunny passes by some kids and notices that they are cheering for him with particular enthusiasm, then he will stop the parade and step out to give them hugs and Easter eggs. Our town's golf club, which is a short walking distance from our home, also puts on a lovely Easter egg hunt in its flowery gazebo garden for the neighborhood children, and we enjoyed that as well. And then our Girl Scout troop arranged for a professional manicurist to come to our meeting and paint all the girls' nails in an Easter Bunny theme. Last year, on the day before Easter, a helicopter came (in which the Easter Bunny was riding) and dropped thousands of candy-filled eggs onto our town's soccer fields for the waiting children to collect. Once my daughter outgrows such things, I plan to take her to NYC for us to stroll in Fifth Avenue's Easter Hat Parade, which I always participated in when I was living in NYC! How I miss those zany hats.

So let me cue the Irving Berlin song "Easter Parade" as I sign off … I hope you are all doing well, and please write to us with your updates. We would love to hear from you, even if it is just to say hello!

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
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Congratulations to **Lisette Camilo,** who was featured in City & State New York's list "The 2024 Above & Beyond: Women," honorees who are transforming New York. Lisette's profile lauded her work as chief administrative officer at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. In particular, the article highlighted how Lisette has spearheaded connections between the MTA and CUNY to recruit a new generation of NYC government workers.

Thanks to Lisette's good friend **Alejandra Montenegro Almonte** for alerting us to the good news!

Congratulations are also in order for **Anand Gandhi,** who is a first-time father! Anand and his wife, Soniya, had a boy, Deven, last November.

Congrats to the Gandhis, who live in Manhattan, on baby Dev!

Podcast lovers, take a moment to subscribe to The Unshakeables, a new podcast hosted by **Tanya Nebo** and Chase for Business CEO Ben Walter. They highlight CEOs and resilient small-business owners (bit.ly/49HifRH). Tanya, who runs her own law firm, is also a nationally renowned business consultant.

As Anand starts his parenting journey, I give a shoutout to classmates on the other side of parenting — those who are celebrating their children's high school and even college graduations! Keri and **Andy Topkins,** Kathy Zucker '97 and **Noah Zucker,** etc., you did it!

1999

Lauren Gershell
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Hello, Class of '99! It has now been 25 years since graduation, a number that seems impossibly large. It was wonderful to see so many of you at reunion, and I would love to hear more about your lives for my next column! In the meantime, I am thrilled to share the following:

Natasha C. Fatheree BUS'09 got married on St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 6, 2023, to her German sweetheart, Andreas Neumann. The two celebrated their union in the San Francisco courthouse with Natasha's family before flying to Oberhausen, Germany, to celebrate with Andreas' relatives. Natasha and Andreas live in Oakland, Calif., where Natasha is

DMITRIY ROZENTUL

Hogan roommates reunited at a birthday party for Anna Rozentul '01 (née Smirnov), held at Somewhere Nowhere NYC on Feb. 11. Left to right: Ilia Malkovitch SEAS'02; Allie Schwartz '01; Maya Kumits BC'00, SEAS'01; Rozentul; and Kirill Titievsky SEAS'01.

a finance leader within the payments industry and Andreas is a software architect within a "big data" startup.

Adrienne Buckley (née Lehman) emailed to share that "2023 was a great year for my family! Because of the actors' and writers' strike, my husband, Mike, was home for six months. We were fortunate and thankful to have the cushion to weather it, and for the first time ever enjoyed family dinners every night for months on end. It was really blissful, and it also allowed me the freedom to dip my toe back into the nursing pool a bit — strictly on my own terms, which was marvelous! Our youngest keeps hoping for the next strike! I think it might give us both a bit of a twitch when she says that, especially since Mike's union, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, is up for renegotiation this year. I am still homeschooling our crew and thrilled to have this privilege. Our children are thriving under an approach loosely based on the Sudbury Valley School, founded by former Columbia professor of physics and history Daniel Greenberg. Sending a big hello to everyone in the class!"

2000

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Hello, my dear Class of 2000 friends! It's always heartwarming to hear about the fantastic journeys and accomplishments of classmates. Let me share with you some of the inspiring updates and achievements from our incredible class:

In the vibrant world of literature, classmates have been busy weaving words into stories that captivate and enlighten. **Sylvia Chen** is over the moon about her debut picture book, *Tricky Chopsticks,* which hit the shelves on March 19. The book follows the imaginative Jenny Chow, a young Chinese-American girl, as she navigates challenges with her STEAM-powered problem-solving skills.

Sylvia's transition from a statistics major at Columbia to authoring a children's book is nothing short of inspiring. For more about this delightful story, check out trickychopsticks.com and sylviaichen.com.

Abigail Krauser Shrier has published her second book, *Bad Therapy: Why the Kids Aren't Growing Up,* which has already gained international acclaim.

Congratulations, Abigail, on this fantastic accomplishment!

Charles Ayres celebrated a significant milestone by marrying his partner, George (Jorge) Escobar Toruño. Additionally, Charles released a book, *Meet Me in Miami.*

Wishing you a lifetime of happiness, Charles and George!

Phoebe Mikhail (née Farag) has some exciting updates. She signed a contract for her second book, *Hunger for Righteousness: A Lenten Guide to Intimacy with God and Love for Our Neighbor,* which will be released in January. Phoebe also received the Louisville Institute's 2024 Pastoral Study Project Grant for her research and translation work on her third book, *To Live is Christ: A Life and Letters of the Late Bishop Samuel.*

Congratulations, Phoebe, on the book and the grant!

Kevin Woodson has recently published his first book, *The Black Ceiling: How Race Still Matters in the Elite Workplace.* Based on more than 100 qualitative interviews conducted while completing his Ph.D. in sociology at Princeton, Kevin's book introduces important hidden challenges that many Black professionals experience at law firms, investment banks and other elite workplaces. Kevin is a professor at the University of Richmond School of Law.

Congratulations, Kevin, on this important and timely work!

Shifting gears from the literary realm, **Evan Hutchison** is making a splash in politics. He was gearing up to be on the ballot for the Democratic Primary for New York's 10th Congressional District on June 25.

We're cheering you on, Evan, and wishing you success in your political journey!

In the academic sphere, **Adriana Villavicencio** TC'02 has some wonderful news to share. After a fruitful five years in California, she's returning to the Big Apple with her family to embark on a tenure-track position at NYU Steinhardt.

We're thrilled for you, Adriana, and can't wait to see the impact you'll make in your new role!

It's truly a joy to see our class continue to shine and make a difference in so many areas. If you have updates or news to share, please don't hesitate to reach out. Let's keep the spirit of the Class of 2000 alive and strong!

TARYN ROEDER

Juliet Grames '05 (left) and Katya Apekina '05 at a reading for Apekina's new novel, *Mother Doll,* on March 22 at Newtonville Books in Newton, Mass.

2001

Jonathan Gordin
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Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg writes, "After 12 years at the Legal Aid Justice Center in Virginia, most recently as its litigation director, I've moved into private practice. I'm now a partner and head of litigation at Murray Osorio, a full-service immigration law firm with offices in Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey."

Congratulations, Simon!

Classmates, please share your news, too.

2002

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Dr. **Jane Rosen** Ph.D. and Anthony Parisi Ph.D. got married on Dec. 21, 2022, "after eight years of procrastination!" They have plans for more celebration in 2024: bit.ly/3TMbLex.

Sara Rubenstein writes: "I currently manage Henning Larsen's North American business, a job I started when we had a fledgling office in New York five years ago. We have hit the ground running and will soon have seven buildings out of the ground in North America. I would love to connect with anyone in the real estate and higher education fields. I married William West, a classmate from the Yale School of Architecture, and we have two children, Miriam (7) and Samuel (4)."

Elizabeth Matory, who holds a J.D. and an M.B.A., writes, "I finally found my vocation after two decades of searching now that I am the main instructor for the Second Chance Pell program, taught through my small university, Glenville State University, here in the heart of 'Wild and Wonderful' West Virginia. To help incarcerated citizens earn their college degrees and reclaim their futures very much feeds my soul. Though I probably won't be coming back to NYC any time soon, I wish everyone the very best. And if ever you're out yonder, holler. Much love!"

Kim Van Orden Ph.D. recently became co-director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide at the University of Rochester Medical Center. After studying psychology at Columbia, she earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Florida State University and then completed a fellowship at URMC. She now leads a research lab on clinical geropsychology focused on treating social isolation and loneliness to reduce suicide risk.

Jillian White's career has been marked by a passionate commitment to addressing discrimination in real estate appraising. Her efforts have gained significant attention, notably through her being featured in the Jan. 10, 2023, *New York Times* article "How Three Black Women Hope to Change the Home Appraisal Industry." This topic garnered scrutiny following **Abena Horton** (née Sanders) being featured in the Aug. 20, 2020, *New York Times* article "Black Homeowners Face Discrimination in Appraisals." Jillian's advocacy and expertise were further showcased in the Hulu documentary *Our America: Lowballed*. She has two government contracts with HUD and the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council to address and mitigate appraisal bias cases, and she recently testified at an Office of the Comptroller of the Currency hearing. In 2023, she founded her own consultancy, Appraisal Insights, which recently launched BIASCAPE, an appraisal bias certification program for lenders. Next they will release a consumer tool that allows homeowners to check the accuracy of their appraisals.

2003

Michael J. Novielli
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To those living in the Northern Hemisphere, I hope you had an enjoyable spring and a good start to the summer. Please spare some time to share a Class Notes update with me so that I can have a more robust column for you.

Adam Kushner has been named deputy editor for The Morning at *The New York Times*. Interested classmates can sign up for this daily newsletter: nytimes.com/newsletters/morning-briefing.

SUBMIT A JUST MARRIED! PHOTO

- Photos must feature at least one College alum, as long as a member of the couple.
- All photos must be submitted using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.**
- Photos that do not meet the size parameters for print will run online.

Jessica Macari has been named general counsel to the State of North Carolina Office of the State Controller.

Adam Libove writes, "I am at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office as the deputy chief of public integrity. Next semester I'm teaching a class on international financial crimes in Fordham Law's Program on Corporate Ethics and Compliance. I would love to hear from alums who work in BSA/AML (Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering) or OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) compliance, fellow prosecutors or white-collar defense attorneys."

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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Julianna Dudas writes, "After spending 15 years working in the entertainment industry, I pivoted and left Los Angeles in 2018 to pursue a second career in medicine. My love of botany and exploring the mind-body connection led me to get my doctorate at Bastyr University. Now a licensed naturopathic medical doctor under the California Board, I enjoy treating patients with complex chronic illness at Restor Medicine, a private clinic in Mission Hills, San Diego. I take a functional, integrative approach, and help patients from all around the world via telemedicine. It is challenging but rewarding! My focus is primarily in tickborne illness, environmental disease including mold and mycotoxin illness, mast cell activation and histamine intolerance, as well as autoimmune disease."

Marina Severinovsky BUS'09 is in her 14th year working for Schroders Asset Management and in her third year as the head of sustainability, North America. She and her husband, Michael, were looking forward to celebrating the joy of their oldest son Mason's bar mitzvah in May.

That's all for this issue! Please continue to send updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always great, but please share fun anecdotes, memories or any updates!

2005

Sallie Touma
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Hi, Class of 2005! Would you be interested in a supper club where we host one another at a different house each month? I'm happy to organize the program for the Tri-State area and to host one of the first ones!

In professional news, I rebranded to Sallie Tutor. I expanded to tutor the verbal section of the new digital SAT. I still tutor math and physics. I am also an adjunct college math professor.

And now on to our classmates' news.

In 40th birthday bash news, **Elizabeth Greene** (née Levine) shares, "I've been living in Washington, D.C., since graduation. I completed medical school and residency in psychiatry at The George Washington University and have been a psychiatrist at the Washington, D.C., veterans hospital since 2015. My husband, Cary, and I have two sons, Henry (12) and Sam (10).

"Last Memorial Day weekend I met up with **Sety Britton SEAS '05** (née Siadat), **Carah Santos Lunn SEAS '05** and **Michelle Bumgarner** (née Ko) at the Lake Austin Spa Resort in Austin, Texas, to celebrate our 40th birthdays. Sety lives in Florida, Carah lives in California and Michelle lives in New York, so Texas was a perfect midway point. We had a great time hiking, relaxing and catching up. I feel so fortunate that we've managed to stay close through the years. It's been amazing seeing everyone transition into adulthood and parenthood. We hope to continue to get together in the years to come."

Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo of the group!

In interior design news, **Jenny Madden** (née Korecky) shares, "My husband, **Greg Madden,** and I have settled into Westfield, N.J., with our two young boys. I've relocated my interior design firm, Jenny Madden Design, from Hoboken to Westfield, as well. The firm was recently featured in *New Jersey Monthly* magazine for our design of NBC sports broadcaster Kathryn Tappen's new home."

We also have author **Katya Apekina.** She shares, "My novel *Mother Doll* came out on March 12. [As I write this in March, I am] about to leave for a book tour. I held an event in Los Angeles at Skylight Books, where I was in conversation with Ottessa Moshfegh BC'02." See the nearby photo of Katya and **Juliet Grames**!

Francesca Hoffman has a new venture. She is "hard at work opening Unicorn Bar, a queer-forward performance venue, bar and eatery in Kingston, N.Y. [As I write this, it was scheduled to open in] April, and will provide a safe, sex-positive and inclusive party space for the LGBTQ+ community within Kingston and the greater Hudson Valley region, as well as host a range of musical and performance events, community gatherings and more (unicornkingston.com)."

Juliet Grames writes, "My second novel, *The Lost Boy of Santa Chionia*, comes out on July 23. It's set in 1960 in a remote village in southern Italy, where a Barnard grad (Class of 1952) is working for a charity organization to open a nursery school and ends up falling afoul of the entrenched Calabrian mafia. To create the character, I had a lot of fun collecting stories about 1950s student life. (I'm especially grateful to the fascinating alumna and fellow writer Camilla Trinchieri BC'63 — who knew about posture training requirements?) My publisher has put together a generous tour for me, and I hope I will have the chance to reconnect with other Columbia alums on the road this summer. The full itinerary is on julietgrames.com."

If I missed any of your entries, please contact me at 516-368-6001 or sallie@sallietutor.com (note my new email address!). And if you attended Class Day and/or Columbia Reunion 2024, please send along your news and pictures!

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

Warm summer greetings to the Class of 2006! It's lovely to get so many great updates from our peers, and I'm privileged to share the latest news.

In addition to his work in event planning and production in New York City, **Justin Ifill** is gearing up for another season of yoga retreats.

He'd love to hear from any alumni who might be interested in joining him in Panama or Bali in 2025.

Emily Lo Gibson sends her best from the Boston area, where she has made a career shift from architecture to editing and publication design. Emily and her husband welcomed their first child, Nicolas, in August. Emily's growing family enjoyed a visit from **Emily Gromoll,** and they hope their son will get to know more of the Columbia community soon!

Following publication of his second book, *The Decisive Decade: American Grand Strategy for Triumph Over China,* Dr. **Jonathan D.T. Ward** joined Hudson Institute, a national security think tank in Washington, D.C. Jonathan's work continues to be read by audiences in U.S. and allied militaries and governments, financial institutions and Fortune 500 businesses. Jonathan also maintains his own strategy consulting business, Atlas Organization. In his own words: "It's been a great journey since first studying Russian and Chinese language as an undergraduate at Columbia."

Isabel Estrada-Jamison continues to teach Afro-Cuban dance and rumba on the Lower East Side of New York City. She'd love to welcome fellow alumni in class soon.

Dr. **Mohammad F. Ali** has been promoted to chief of gastroenterology and hepatology at Oswego Health as well as being medical director of its Center for Gastroenterology & Metabolic Diseases.

Finally, **Jennifer Broxmeyer** is proud to have defeated Matthew Rascoff '01 in the "Coke and Pepsi" challenge at the Silicon Valley event known as "The Lovey Party." Out of a highly competitive field of entrants, Jennifer was the only competitor to achieve a perfect score.

2007

David Donner Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I hope everyone is doing well, and thank you to everyone who shared updates with our class.

Josie Raymond (née Swindler) writes, "I'm wrapping up my third term in the Kentucky House of Representatives and am looking forward next year to serving on Louisville's Metro Council, where I'm running unopposed. I'm hopeful we can be more nimble and proactive at the local level. Plus, I'll be going from the superminority to the majority!"

Michele Scott, tribal councilor for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, was appointed in February to the U.S. Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on Minority Health. In addition, she was appointed to the National Institutes of Health's Tribal Advisory Committee as the Nashville Regional Delegate.

After three years of service, **Luke McGowan** left the Biden White House, where he had served as a senior adviser for economic recovery. Luke now works at Bloomberg Philanthropies, leading federal initiatives and supporting mayors around the world. He's happy he'll be back in New York frequently, and will be able to see fellow Columbia alumni more often.

Elyse Oleksak (née Pultz) published *A Shark Ate My Bagel: How We Built Bantam Bagels, a Memoir* (howwebuiltbantambagels.com) in March on Amazon and audiobooks on Audible, iPhone and Spotify.

Sohan Dasgupta addressed world leaders, including U.S. senators, U.S. members of Congress and foreign leaders at the Congress of the United States. Several senators, members of Congress, foreign heads of state and members of Parliament also spoke. Sohan's lecture, "Adversarial Foreign Investments and the Free World," concerned significant questions of national security, international trade and the rule of law.

Tao Tan BUS'11 writes, "My wife, Sarah Gitlin '13, and I have found ourselves inadvertently doing a 'Lit Hum tour.' Right now, we're in La Mancha, Spain, so we promptly attacked a windmill."

Kasia Nikhamina (née Kozanecka) writes Divinity School, weekly letters about city life, at kasianikhamina.substack.com.

In 2022, Kasia published two essays about losing her mother to Covid-19: "What else can I give you?" on Roxane Gay's The Audacity, and "COVID: Theme and Escalations," on Intima: A journal of narrative medicine. In April, Kasia was a resident at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts; she is working on her first novel.

Andy Wolfe writes, "I spent more than three months on retreat during the last year and rebranded to Sati Leadership Coaching, where I practice balancing healthy masculine thinking and strength with feminine feeling and ease.

CRYSTAL VIDAL '09

Esther López Torres '09 (left) and Yareni "Yari" Sanchez '09 posed on March 11, 2022, while in Miami for Sanchez's wedding weekend.

"*Sati* is a Pali word that the colonial English translated as mindfulness. Pali is the original language of the ancient Buddhist texts that teach us what's now known as mindfulness meditation. More accurately, sati means remembering.

"With mindfulness meditation, we're not looking for anything new or different, like peace or happiness. Nor are we controlling the mind or removing anger, sadness or fear. We're practicing sati — remembering our innate purity, re-membering our bodies — by noticing and allowing things as they are, even when they feel unpleasant, as an inherent part of life. This gives uncomfortable body sensations space to release, bypassing otherwise subconscious attempts to find relief through unskillful reaction.

"By resting the attention on the breath and kindly returning to it each time the mind naturally gets distracted, compassion builds from the inside, out. This leads to acceptance and equanimity that gradually extend from ourselves and the beings that bring us smiles to include those we find most difficult.

"Our awareness slowly expands to illuminate what was previously too difficult to see. Previously subconscious grasping and aversion soften, and the body-heart-mind orients away from suffering and toward peace and connection. We learn to relax into the ever-changing present moment and develop the wisdom to know when and how to respond skillfully, now using the mind to gently guide attention. With clear seeing, we wake up to the many joys that already surround us. This generates lasting contentment."

I'm sad to share the passing of **Tim Walker** in February 2024, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Tim played football and rugby at CU and was a beloved teacher at Chapel Hill Academy in Lincoln Park, N.J. Classmates have shared this GoFundMe to support his wife and 18-month-old son: bit.ly/3xowptC. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

2008

Bradley Blackburn
blb2104@columbia.edu

Hope you're enjoying the summer months, CC'08!

The beautiful Avery Library was always a favorite place to study on campus, and I recently had a nice reason to visit again. My wife, **Gilma Avalos,** and I live with our daughters in an apartment building designed in the 1920s by Emery Roth. I had read that Avery maintains Roth's archives, and the gracious librarians were able to pull the original hand-drawn

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo**. Congratulations!

2
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

ROBERTO FALCK, ROBERTO FALCK PHOTOGRAPHY

PAUL MILLER, PAUL MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

KENYATTA DAVIS

PATKEN PHOTOGRAPHER

HANNAH TAYLOR OF EPAGAFOTO

1. Ben Miller ’92 and Lisa Scheller married on Jan. 7, 2023, at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in NYC.

2. Joining the celebration of Tucker Kuman ’13 and Alexandra Miller ’14’s (front row) Oct. 14 wedding at The Water Club in NYC were, back row, left to right: Ethan Plaue ’15, Ian Scheffler ’12, Asher Morse GSAS’21, Shailin Thomas, Jason Bell ’13 and Ashley Dalton LAW’19; and front row, left to right: Sanket Karuri, Abigail Struhl ’14, Rebecca Liu ’14, Francis Russo GSAS’15, Denise Machin ’13, James Wiseman ’13, Leor Akabas ’15, Amit Saha ’14 and Angela Lee BC’15.

3. Silvie Jensen ’98 and David Masterson (center) were married at Sonoma Mission Inn, in Sonoma, Calif., on July 7, 2023. Joining them, left to right, were Sara Press ’97; Rebecca Letz BC’00; Jonathan McKeever SEAS’98; Julie Motz GS’65, PH’96; Dr. Meg Aldrich ’97; and Jennifer Bleyer ’98.

4. Garrett Ryan ’18 and Lauren Wilkins ’19 were married at Anderson Pavilion in Cincinnati on Oct. 28.

5. Vera Scanlon ’90 and Martin Walsh were wed at St. Boniface Parish in Brooklyn, N.Y., and had their reception at The Sanctuary, on Roosevelt Island, on Dec. 29.

6. Caleb Chipman and Emily Chipman ’23 (née Martin; both far left), celebrated their Oct. 6 wedding in Kansas City, Mo., surrounded by friends from The Varsity Show (left to right) Eliza Staples BC’23, Tatiana Santos Mroczek BC’25, Eleanor Babwin BC’24, Abby Svelan BC’25, Grace Biondi BC’23, Casey Rogerson ’24, Nicholas Meyers ’24, Jaeda Mendoza BC’23, Julian Gerber ’24, Malcolm Toleno ’23, Nina Dia ’25, Grace Brown BC’23 and Maya Campbell BC’23.

blueprints for our building to see in person. It was a thrill to connect with history, and a welcome reminder that the alumni reading card comes with all kinds of resources.

Thanks to all classmates who shared their updates:

Ryan MacCarrigan began teaching within the innovation management and startup immersion programs at UC Berkeley in fall 2023. He also founded Cinema for Good, which produces the Merylthon, a three-day film fundraiser featuring Meryl Streep in eight iconic film roles. All proceeds from the Merylthon benefit the nonprofit counseling agency Queer LifeSpace.

Betsy Purves (née Remes) started a job in February as director of institutional advancement at the Meridian International Center. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, Jon; children, Robbie (6) and Claire (3); and elderly black Lab.

Carmen Jo "CJ" Rejda-Ponce is a litigation partner in Houston, specializing in employment and civil rights defense litigation. She recently earned her certification in Labor and Employment Law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, an honor held by only 650 lawyers in the state.

Misha Shklyar has been working on an app, "I Aced Calculus," for two years, which is finally on the App Store and Google Play! He's really proud of the thorough work he and his team did. Misha can now spend more time with his lovely wife and his toddler, who speaks Russian, English and Mandarin.

2009

Shira Burton
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Hello, classmates! Thanks for sending so many great updates this time. Before I get into them, I want to make a pitch to you — I swear Columbia didn't put me up to this. During the last few years, I have been volunteering as a mentor through the Odyssey Mentoring Program (OMP; odyssey.college.columbia.edu). Typically, I sign up to receive a mentee each semester, and sometimes there is a program in the summer. My mentees have been first- through fourth-year students, and I've also communicated with young alumni through the program. OMP does not ask for much of your time; you're only required to have a one-hour conversation with your mentee, although the mentorship can go beyond that one meeting. As an alumna living outside of NYC, I enjoy the opportunity to connect with current students, hear about what is happening on campus and reminisce about how things were almost 20 years ago (yikes). It feels good to know I'm supporting students and sharing a perspective they might not otherwise hear. I would really recommend giving OMP a try!

Yareni "Yari" Sanchez, a real estate attorney at Goulston & Storrs in Boston, has been named a 2024 "Up & Coming Lawyer" by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.* Yari focuses her practice on development, permitting and zoning, as well as transactional matters such as acquisitions, dispositions, financing and related matters.

C. Zachary Rosenberg GSAS'09 was recently promoted to member at Rottenberg Lipman Rich, where he has practiced law for the last eight years.

Phil Rabovsky reports that after living in Hungary and Chile for a few years, he has returned to NYC and joined the faculty of the School of Visual Arts, leading seminars for second- and third-year candidates at the MFA Art Practice program.

Annie Ma-Weaver and **Jacob Ma-Weaver** GSAS'09 write that they finally moved into their (they hope forever) home in San Francisco after five-plus years of gut renovation. They would love to see you and show you their labor of love, so please reach out if you're in or visiting the Bay.

Arita Thatte GS'15 writes, "I finished my chief residency at the University of Washington in internal medicine and will move to California for an endocrinology fellowship at Stanford in July!"

Joanna Smolenski completed a two-year clinical ethics fellowship at UCLA Health, after which she accepted a faculty position as an assistant professor at the Baylor College of Medicine Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy in Houston, beginning in July 2023. In addition to continuing her research and teaching medical students, she is a clinical ethicist at Houston Methodist Hospital, and is excited to meet any and all Columbians in the greater Houston area.

CC'16 classmates (left to right) Mohit Jain, Kelly Echavarria and Lily Liu-Krason had lunch at Balthazar in NYC on March 9.

Daniella Zalcman writes, "I moved to New Orleans a few years back and joined the faculty of Tulane University last fall. I teach community engagement journalism and visual media ethics, and am really enjoying spending more time in the classroom. I continue to run my nonprofit, Women Photograph, and am a photojournalist as well — my latest *National Geographic* story on the history of coercive assimilation education for Indigenous youth in America won a National Magazine Award."

That's all for now! If you have contributions for next time, you can email me or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2010

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Billy Organek** for his two years of service as class correspondent. This is his last column. If you are interested in taking on this role, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'10 class correspondent." In the meantime, please send your news, updates and/or College memories to *CCT* using the email above or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

Hello, 2010ers! I'm happy to include class updates here.

Stefan Vutescu finished an orthopedic surgery training and residency at Brown University and a fellowship in hand/upper extremity and microsurgery at Stony Brook University. He will practice as a hand surgeon in Oakland, Calif., at a Level I trauma center.

Rachel Phin (née Vishnepolsky) was married this past November.

Congratulations, Stefan and Rachel, on the professional and personal accomplishments!

This will be the last time I write you as your class correspondent. I've enjoyed serving in this role in the last two years and have reconnected with a handful of classmates with whom I haven't spoken since college. Unfortunately, in light of recent events, as a Jewish person I can no longer support Columbia University or its efforts in fostering its donor community.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and
Sean Udell
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sean.udell@gmail.com

Happy Summer, Twenty-Eleven!

If a child was born on our graduation date — and surely there were a few — they'd be celebrating their b'nai mitzvah right now, awkwardly dancing to "YMCA" while their recently divorced dad was hitting on the bartender and their mom was running around the tables begging the other children to get off TikTok to join their child in dancing to a catchy tune written by gay men who would have no idea that their song would decades later be used to pump up crowds of straight white men at far-right rallies. Happy 13th graduation anniversary, everyone!

We were thrilled to get several updates this time. **Olivia Shih** recently started teaching as an adjunct professor in the Jewelry and Metal Arts Department at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. She is also the assistant editor at *Metalsmith* magazine and continues to run her own jewelry business (oliviashih.com).

Taimur "TM" Malik founded a large-scale, regenerative farm in the Thal Desert of Pakistan seven years ago. His goal has been to craft and model a nature-based solution to climate change, malnutrition and the sixth mass extinction. In the interval, TM also was a policy adviser on building a regenerative economy to Pakistan's minister for climate change and the environment and co-authored the country's first green growth plan. TM is now consulting for the World Bank, the IFC and other important stakeholders alongside global investors to bring regenerative agriculture projects at scale across the planet. He hopes that fellow Columbians will reach out if they have collaborative ideas that they'd like to pursue with him!

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

- If your class has a correspondent, email them at the address at the top of your column.
- If *CCT* handles your class, email **cct@columbia.edu** (please indicate your class year).
- All classes may submit using the online webform **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.**

After moving from NYC to Boston to San Diego to Los Angeles to Detroit, **Nicole Oparaeke** has finally settled down with her family in Chicago. At the time of this writing, she is married to Ramon Lee, raising her daughter, Cheluchi, and looking forward to opening her own pediatric dental office, Smile Squad Pediatric Dentistry, this summer! She would love to reconnect with other Columbians in Chicago.

And, finally, **Betsy Morais** and **Thomas Rhiel** have expanded their family. They recently welcomed John Morais Rhiel, born on Nov. 25, measuring 7 pounds, 2 ounces in weight, and 51 centimeters in length. His sister, Minna, calls him "Johnny Boy" and "Baby Bruddah," always with a thick Brooklyn accent. John enjoys eating, lap naps, carrier walks and watching his sister dance around the apartment.

2012

Pat Blute
pblute@gmail.com

If we count solely in Leap Years, we've only been out of Columbia College for three years. But in that "abridged" time, it's astounding the impact our class has made on the world.

Kristin Simmons has developed an expertise redesigning her art website, showcasing a decade of her work: kristinsimmonsart.com. As she shared, "It's been a love-hate project, especially with the countless images and SEO surprises. If anyone's using Squarespace and needs assistance, feel free to reach out!"

Take a look, as Kristin's paintings, silkscreens and illustrations pop with incredible character and demonstrate immense talent.

Dr. **Vasilis Hristidis** GS'16 was made chief resident of the Department of Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and was excited to start his PGY4 year this summer.

Congratulations, Vasilis!

Wonderful news that **Brenda Salinas Baker** and Nick Baker welcomed their first child in October, and **Erik Kogut** BUS'19 and **Becca Fine** welcomed their first child in January!

Philip Crandall moved back to New York from Australia in July 2023, with his wife, Paige, and 7-year-old son. He works in SoHo, plays squash on Fridays in FiDi "and would be happy to reconnect with schoolmates!"

After six years in Pakistan, **Gillian Rhodes** recently moved to Dubai after producing her stage play, *The Clown & His Shadow,* a new twist on the famous sad clown tale that involved duplicating herself through a screen. She also conceptualized a gallery exhibition, *All These Faces Are Mine,* based around her four artistic alter egos. She says, "I showcased my short films and did a live performance transforming into each character, alongside four other showcasing artists." In Dubai, she will look to be part of the booming arts and culture scene in the Middle East.

Dr. Vasilis Hristidis '12 is chief resident of the Department of Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

To all our Columbians across the globe, have a safe and healthy summer!

2013

Tala Akhavan
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No news this time.

2014

Rebecca Schechter Fattell
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David Su contributed two chapters to the book *Game Audio Programming 4: Principles and Practices,* to be published on Dec. 6! Both are on building a real-time pitch tracker, with one covering fundamentals and the other covering practical techniques. David gave a talk at the 2024 Game Developers Conference with composer Megan Carnes and sound designer Jamie Lee; the session was "The Art of Cherry-Picking: Selectively Ignoring Career Advice."

Chris Zombik lives in Somerville, Mass., and is a writer and freelance education consultant. He spent the last year researching and co-authoring a personal history of modern China focused on the life of a Shanghainese business lawyer from 1972 to the present; the book is now in the editing phase. Chris is also revising his first novel and looks forward to querying for it later this year.

2015

Kareem Carryl
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Hello Class of 2015! Hope everything is going well on your end! We have an update from a classmate:

Bitania Wondimu is finishing her fourth year of anatomic and clinical pathology residency at the University of Washington, where she has also spent the last year as chief resident. Next year, she is looking forward to beginning a surgical pathology fellowship at Washington, followed by a dermatopathology fellowship at the University of Arkansas.

As always, classmates want to hear from you! Please submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
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Happy Summer to my fellow CC'16-ers. As always, this column reminds me that the seasons pass quickly. By the time you read or skim this, we've had another reunion and another class of graduates behind us. If you attended Class Day or Columbia Reunion 2024, please send me your photos and updates!

Here's a note from **Jackie Dubrovich:** "I'm very excited to represent Team USA at the 2024 Paris Summer Olympic Games. To be able to call myself a two-time Olympian is surreal, and I'm so grateful for everyone who has helped me get to this stage. I'm looking forward to training hard the next four months [as I write this in April] and excited to give it my all in Paris."

Please cheer Jackie on this summer! And go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo of her and **Polina Porotsky**!

I recently caught up with **Mohit Jain** and **Kelly Echavarria** in New York City. See the nearby photo!

If you're ever in town, please let me know. I would love to catch up, no matter how long it has been.

2017

Carl Yin
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Sophie Zmorrod shares, "[As I write] I'm in rehearsal for the Broadway National Tour of *The Kite Runner.* We tour from early April to the end of June, ending at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C."

Lauren Green's novel, *The World After Alice*, will be published on July 2.

Nick Wolferman's company, Wolferman Consulting, which he started in college as a freelancing gig, is celebrating 10 years.

2018

Alexander Birkel
and Maleeha Chida
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mnc2122@columbia.edu

Alex Bass founded Salon 21, a company that offers a rotation of art and design exhibitions, dinner parties, panels and other programming with the goal of bringing together individuals in the New York area who want to discuss and explore arts and culture. We heard from Alex in the Fall 2018 issue, and since then, Salon 21 opened its first physical, long-term location, in Soho.

Riley Burke was busy preparing for her album release show on June 1 at The Cutting Room, which featured her band playing *Reconfiguration,* her debut solo album, as well as songs from Burke & Krowe, her former jazz folk rock band, formed while studying at Columbia.

Riley mainly wrote, arranged and recorded the album while earning a master's in film scoring from NYU. She is also in the process of developing a solo show based on the album's story.

The closing song, "I Know How These Things Go," was recently selected for the Songwriters Night at The Bitter End, hosted by the Society of Composers & Lyricists, Songwriters Guild of America and New York Songwriters Collective. Riley has also written music for the SNY television network and scored Hillia Aho's film *In Passing*, which premiered at the 2024 Tribeca Festival. Riley shared a link to her Spotify: bit.ly/4aD54Cr. See the nearby photo of her performing!

Alex Fay is moving to Oklahoma to start this fall as an assistant professor at the University of Tulsa College of Law, researching and teaching Native American law subjects.

Congratulations to all on these accomplishments!

Celebrating Jeremy Cooper '17's 30th birthday at Penny Williamsburg in Brooklyn, N.Y., on March 3 were, left to right: Mikaella Bernstein Apfel '17, Benjamin Apfel '18, Alexander Rabinowitz '19, Cooper and Ellin Mitchell Cooper BC'19.

Riley Burke '18 (acoustic guitar/vocals/artist), accompanied by Nick Loud '21 (piano), of Riley Burke Band, performed at Songwriters Night at NYC's The Bitter End on Jan. 16.

Also: See the nearby photo sent in by **Joshua Suh**! And there are two more from him in this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Please stay connected! You can send updates to Class Notes by emailing us or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent through the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2019

Tj Aspen Givens and
Emily Gruber
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emilyannegruber@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 2019! We hope that you are all well and having a good summer. We hope that you enjoy these notes from classmates!

Bernie Bridges wrote: "Bernie Bridges' Los Angeles-based band, Tetherball, released its first single, 'Sad Parade,' on April 5! Listen wherever you get your music! :)"

Emily Gruber, Elif Memet and **Emily Sun** reunited with Avantika Kumar '15, Yunzhe "Matthew" Nie '23 and Alex Siegal '21. All are graduate students at Harvard and gathered to celebrate the Columbia College alumni community in Cambridge, Mass.! See the nearby photo!

Eleanor Pressman, Connor Moore and **Nicholas Rio** sent the following: "We all moved to California after graduating! El is in her D.V.M./Ph.D. graduate program at UC Davis but advanced to candidacy. Nick lives and works in San Francisco, and Connor lives in Los Angeles and recently started a position with the Los Angeles Unified School District. We enjoy getting to see each other lots, whether visiting each other in the city or enjoying California's great outdoors together. Go to this column online at college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo of us in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in February. We're looking forward to more adventures this summer!"

Abby White is thrilled to announce she has sold her debut novel, *D.J. Rosenblum Becomes the G.O.A.T.* This young adult novel follows Jewish teenager D.J., whose beloved cousin Rachel allegedly died by suicide but whom D.J. is convinced was murdered. When she moves to Rachel's hometown, D.J. must juggle prepping for her bat mitzvah with investigating Rachel's death. Levine Querido, an independent publisher with a focus on diverse authors and stories, will publish *D.J. Rosenblum Becomes the G.O.A.T.* in fall 2025.

2020

Stephen Cone and
Kyra Ann Dawkins
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kad2196@columbia.edu

Nathan dos Santos has been preparing the first English translation of the *Foral of Macau,* a 16th-century charter that was instrumental in Portuguese imperial consolidation in

Columbia golf teammates (left to right) Sunny Yan '19, John Robertson '21, Daniel Terrell '21 and Joshua Suh '18 got together for a meal at Let's Meat BBQ in NYC's Koreatown on Aug. 22.

A group of CC alumni — clockwise from bottom left: Emily Sun '19, Yunzhe "Matthew" Nie '23, Alex Siegal '21, Emily Gruber '19, Elif Memet '19 and Avantika Kumar '15 — reunited as grad students at Harvard on Nov. 9.

East Asia. With the help of experts at the University of Groningen preparing an accompanying landmark Chinese translation, they will publish the annotated text in three volumes across the next three years.

Thank you to Nathan, and we look forward to hearing from more of you.

2021

Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey, Class of 2021! I hope this summer has been a great time for rest and relaxation for everyone! It feels like it has been so long since we've been all together and I miss those days. I would love to hear more from all of you; if you would like to share your own Class Note or update, please feel free to reach out to me at any time by email or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Danielle Mikaelian is in her second year of studies at Harvard Law but feels nostalgic about her days in Morningside Heights. While at Columbia, she was wellness chair for the Office of University Life, business director for the *Columbia Undergraduate Law Review,* editor-in-chief of the *Women in Law and Politics Journal,* president of the Columbia University Armenian Society and more. She writes: "It's a shame how the pandemic ended our undergraduate journey, preventing proper goodbyes and senior traditions. I hope this note finds my classmates well — all the best in your endeavors. Love, Danielle."

CC'19 friends (left to right) Justin Strauss, Elif Memet and Eric Li, together here on Dec. 21 and visiting from New York, Massachusetts and Amsterdam, respectively, reunited in Chamonix, France, for a ski trip.

2022

Mark Anthony Torres
mat2223@columbia.edu

No news this time.

2023

Ashley Yu
ashley.yu@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2023! It is hard to believe it is more than a year since graduation! I hope everyone has found a way to ease into post-grad life, whether that is through starting a job, graduate school or other pursuits! My hope is for all of us to stay connected as young alumni! A great way to stay connected is by sharing Class Notes to update classmates on new adventures in your life. Please reach out to me with your news via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Ruchika Mukherjee reflects on all that has happened since graduating: "I moved to a new country, I built friendships and networks, and started a corporate job that I'd always wanted. A lot of this would not have been possible without Columbia. It's all exhilarating but sometimes I struggle with all the changes that this past year has brought — and I end my daily call to my mother on my walk to work saying 'Reached school, gotta go' more often than I'd like to admit. Columbia stays in my heart and mind always!"

Taylor Johnston has been working on the Global Environment Health and Safety team at Pfizer and is completing the 4+1 dual M.S. in sustainability management at SPS.

Astrid Liden is finishing her first year at the University of Oxford, where she is pursuing an M.Sc. in refugee and forced migration studies, on a Rhodes Scholarship. This fall Astrid will begin a master of public policy, also at Oxford, with a focus on migration and asylum policy. She writes, "I am very grateful for the opportunity to be at Oxford on this amazing scholarship and to take advantage of so many of the interests and passions that started during my time at Columbia!"

Nixon Mckenzie he has secured an apartment in New York City and embarked on his career at PwC!

obituaries

Columbia College Today has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. To submit an obituary for a Columbia College graduate, please use the online webform college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_obituary.

1946 **Herbert Gold,** novelist, journalist and poet, San Francisco, on Nov. 19, 2023. **

Martin Silbersweig, physician, Tenafly, N.J., on Jan. 9, 2023. *

1948 **Herbert Goldman,** engineer and businessman, Teaneck, N.J., on Nov. 5, 2023. *

1949 **Robert L. White,** engineering professor, Palo Alto, Calif., on Dec. 10, 2023. *

1952 **Clifford C. Blanchard Jr.,** engineer and businessman, Naples, Fla., on Nov. 25, 2023. *

Milton C. Lee Jr., physician, Scarsdale, N.Y., on Feb. 18, 2019. *

1954 **A. Stephen Passloff,** physician, New York City, on April 17, 2024.

Brian Tansey, health services administrator, Cincinnati, on Jan. 31, 2024. *

1955 **Judah “Judd” Maze,** psychiatrist, Mamaroneck, N.Y., on March 7, 2024. *

Berish “Bob” Strauch, surgeon, Greenwich, Conn., on Dec. 24, 2023. **

Dan Wakefield, writer, Miami, on March 13, 2024. **

1956 **Ronald A. Kapon,** professor and oenophile, New York City, on Nov. 22, 2023.

Gerald L. Fine (né Finkelstein), orthodontist, Setauket, N.Y., on Dec. 15, 2023. *

Gerald Modell, businessman, Palm Beach, Fla., on Feb. 27, 2024. *

1957 **John F. Mathews,** TV news producer, Woodstock, Vt., on Sept. 3, 2023. *

Ira N. Silverman, journalist, Rockville, Md., on March 6, 2024. *

1958 **Peter A. Demetriou,** research firm partner/owner, Athens, Greece, on Nov. 21, 2021.

Peter Gruenberger, attorney, New York City, on March 6, 2024. *

Stanley H. Schachne, telecom analyst, Purcellville, Va., on March 23, 2024.

Jay W. Smith, physician, Tucson, on Feb. 2, 2024. *

1959 **Francis J. Fortier III,** violinist, conductor and artistic director, New York City, on March 23, 2024.

Bennett Miller, entrepreneur, Rockville, Md., on Oct. 20, 2023. *

1960 **Frank P. Zmorzenski,** naval officer, Stuart, Fla., on Nov. 3, 2023. *

1961 **David A. Freeman,** businessman and music producer, Chapel Hill, N.C., on Dec. 25, 2023.

Arnold Intrater, attorney, Boynton Beach, Fla., on Oct. 15, 2023. *

Adolf F.J. Toborg, New York City, on March 2, 2024.

1962 **Martin S. Kaufman,** attorney, Scarsdale, N.Y., on Oct. 3, 2023. *

Philip Lille, businessman, Paradise Valley, Ariz., on May 1, 2024.

Edward J. Pressman, paper products executive, Yonkers, N.Y., on Jan. 13, 2024. *

1963 **Roland G.F.J. Droitsch,** government service employee, Salt Lake City, on Jan. 26, 2024. *

1964 **Melvyn M. Kassenoff,** attorney, West Orange, N.J., on Aug. 22, 2021. *

1965 **LeRoy E. Euvrard Jr.,** environmental attorney, Knoxville, Tenn., on Jan. 13, 2023. *

1967 **Arthur C. Sprenkle,** physician, Seattle, on May 25, 2023. *

Craig B. Taylor, psychiatrist and educator, Stanford, Calif., on Nov. 30, 2023. *

1968 **David J. Shapiro,** poet, art historian and professor, Bronx, N.Y., on May 4, 2024.

1969 **Paul B. Auster,** novelist, memoirist and screenwriter, Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 30, 2024. **

Gregory H.C. Knox, political activist, San Diego, on Dec. 8, 2023. *

Nathaniel Wander, consultant, researcher, writer, artist and painter, Portland, Ore., on March 27, 2024.

1971 **Mark L. Silverman,** physician, New York City, on April 27, 2024.

1973 **Errol G. Holt,** marketer and brand manager, Hackensack, N.J., on Nov. 22, 2023. *

1974 **Robert P. Knapp III,** attorney, Port Washington, N.Y., on Dec. 2, 2023.

Bruce M. Malamut, international trade professor, New York City, on Feb. 28, 2024. *

1978 **Robert G. Josephs,** real estate attorney, Chevy Chase, Md., on Dec. 19, 2023. *

1979 **Eliot Goldman,** attorney, New York City, on Oct. 31, 2022. *

1987 **Stephanie K. Wissinger,** nonprofit administrator, Brooklyn, N.Y., on Nov. 15, 2023. *

1988 **Felicia L. Needleman Levinson,** lyricist and writer, Stamford, Conn., on July 18, 2023. *

David J. Stoll, attorney, New York City, on Nov. 20, 2023. *

1990 **Tina Bose,** reading specialist, New York City, on March 26, 2024. *

1999 **Jodi L. Norton,** athlete, artist and philanthropist, Tucson, on Jan. 7, 2024. *

2003 **David B. Gerrard,** novelist and teacher, Chappaqua, N.Y., on Dec. 8, 2023. *

Molly M. Nichols, community activist, Columbus, Ohio, on Dec. 25, 2023. *

2007 **Timothy A. Walker,** educator, Sparta, N.J., on Jan. 16, 2024. *

* Full obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct. ** Featured obituary online at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Elizabeth Gabre Sellassie '89 "in the zone" with a future bride.

HELPING BRIDES SAY YES TO THE DRESS

On any given day, just a few blocks from the Empire State Building, Designer Loft Bridal hosts a stream of newly engaged women in search of the gown of their dreams. Some are looking for a confection of a dress, with tiers and ruffles. Others are in search of something less traditional, like a blue jumpsuit. Then there are Orthodox brides on a quest for something modest but stunning, and curvier brides who have struggled to find a perfectly fitting dress elsewhere.

Behind the scenes of their sartorial pursuits is **Elizabeth Gabre Sellassie '89,** who founded the boutique in 2001. For the last two decades, she has taken great pleasure in helping them find — and sometimes even craft — the perfect dress. She traces her desire to be part of people's weddings to her Ethiopian heritage. "Our weddings take eight days and are steeped in rituals that go back thousands of years," she says. "We take marriage and death very seriously."

Sellassie never expected to become a power player in the New York bridal market. She spent her 20s as an attorney at a big New York City firm, but quickly realized the work wasn't particularly fulfilling. Then the 9/11 attack happened. "It was a pivotal moment," she says. "It was a time when we all realized how short life can be. We had to ask ourselves: What makes me happy? What do I want to do with the time that I have?"

Get the story at **college.columbia.edu/cct**